



ROBERT M. BELL  
CHIEF JUDGE

COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND  
ROBERT C. MURPHY COURTS OF APPEAL BUILDING  
361 ROWE BOULEVARD  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1699

November 1, 2002

Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
H-107 State House  
State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.  
Speaker of the House  
H-101 State House  
State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Re: Judgeship Needs for Fiscal Year 2004

Gentlemen:

In accordance with established procedure, the Judiciary herein submits its annual certification for judgeships. While we will certify the need for a significant number of new judgeships, we will refrain from requesting the General Assembly create judgeships or judicial masters given the State's present budget condition. As in the past, the Judicial Branch will make every effort to manage its caseloads more effectively with the use of existing resources, including retired judges upon whom we must continue to rely.

The time is approaching rapidly when improved case processing, management innovation and the use of retired judges reach maximum levels of effectiveness in jurisdictions throughout the State. There have been no new judgeships established since 1998, notwithstanding the three Circuit Court judgeships related to the transfer of juvenile jurisdiction in Montgomery County which literally moved judgeships from one court level to another with a net gain of one judgeship. Further, I direct your attention to our efforts to develop a more reliable means of reporting criminal cases in Baltimore City which in all likelihood will indicate a significant need for additional judges in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. While this new statistical approach is being validated, we have certified additional judges at last year's level for that Court.

The certification process, you will recall, involves three principal steps: (1) a statistical analysis prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts; (2) a response by individual courts to the analysis; and (3) a final determination by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

The statistical analysis uses a weighted caseload methodology to account for varying complexity and need for judicial attention among the panoply of cases filed within our courts. By "weighting" cases, a more accurate determination is made of the amount of judicial time required to

process case types. Moreover, such a model provides objective and standard assessments of judicial resource needs among courts that vary in population and caseload mix. The methodology is described more fully in the enclosed materials.

Administrative judges from each court are required to review the statistical analysis and respond to either an identified need or lack of need for additional judicial resources. It is through such a review that individual courts provide qualitative information that supplements the statistical analysis. In addition, it is expected that each administrative judge will seek the views of other judges within his or her jurisdiction; solicit opinions from the bar; and consult with local government when local funding support is required.

The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is responsible for the annual certification of judgeship needs. As such, the Chief Judge reviews the quantitative analysis, the responses from individual courts, and the recommendation of the Chief Judge of the District Court prior to making a final decision to request additional judicial resources. While the formal certification of judgeship needs is the result of our quantitative and qualitative analysis, the Judicial Branch request for additional judges is influenced significantly by State and local budget conditions, the availability of space in existing court facilities, and the use of case management measures to acquire greater efficiencies.

#### Circuit Courts

Of significant importance are children and family related matters which comprise almost 50 percent of the entire caseload in the Circuit Courts statewide. The immediacy and far-reaching implications of the often recurring issues within these cases require careful and deliberate review, which consumes a great deal of judicial time. In addition, recent changes in the Maryland Rules facilitate the transfer of domestic violence protective order hearings from the District Court to a Circuit Court in which a related family matter is pending. Further compounding these conditions is the reality that in a majority of these cases, at least one party is unrepresented by counsel. In most cases, the lack of counsel results in additional judicial time being required to adjudicate the case fairly and provide equitable relief.

We are reiterating our certification of the past several years for an additional judgeship in Worcester County to serve as a family law judge for the entire First Judicial Circuit which also includes Dorchester, Somerset and Wicomico Counties. This judgeship is designed to move throughout the circuit focusing on family law matters. The need for additional judicial resources in the First Judicial Circuit cumulatively exceeds the certification of one additional judgeship and is an efficient means of sharing limited resources.

In addition, over the last year the Circuit Courts have experienced considerably greater volumes of jury trial prayers from the District Court. Nowhere has this become more critical than in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City with its continuing challenges related to the criminal caseload.

#### District Court

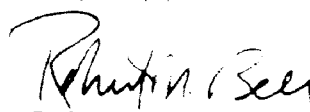
Experiencing similar pressure in petitions for civil protection in domestic violence cases, the District Court has experienced steady increases in hearings. Complicating this situation is the

significant volume of petitions for peace orders. A collateral growth has occurred in more complex civil cases and in traffic cases, particularly driving while intoxicated cases. Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, law enforcement agencies received grant money to assist in their operations. The funds were used to put more police in the streets, resulting in more arrests and a significant rise in DWI cases.

Specifically, we also are certifying the need for one additional judgeship in both Anne Arundel and St. Mary's Counties based upon our quantitative analysis and the advice of Chief Judge Vaughan as to other factors influencing the need for additional resources in these jurisdictions. In Anne Arundel County, the statistical analysis approaches the need for an additional judge (0.9) and when combined with consistently higher comparative bench times and the expanded time from filing to trial warrants the certification. With respect to St. Mary's County, it remains one of the fastest growing communities in the State. Significantly, both the State Police presence and the Sheriff's Office have grown substantially resulting in greater volumes of arrests and traffic citations. In addition, the setting of trial dates in criminal and civil cases has been pushed further from filing to trial to compensate for the caseload growth. These conditions also warrant a need to certify an increase in judicial resources in St. Mary's County.

Despite a reasonable expectation that a declining economy will increase case filings, we will utilize our judicial resources to the best of our abilities in the State's effort to contain costs.

Very truly yours,

  
Robert M. Bell

cc: Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor  
Honorable Barbara A. Hoffman, Chairman, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Honorable Walter M. Baker, Chairman, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Honorable Howard P. Rawlings, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
Honorable Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
Honorable Ulysses Currie, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Honorable Joan Cadden, House Appropriations Committee  
Honorable William D. Schaefer, State Comptroller  
Honorable Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals  
Honorable Paul H. Weinstein, Chairman, Conference of Circuit Judges  
Honorable James N. Vaughan, Chief Judge, District Court  
Honorable T. Eloise Foster, Secretary, Department of Budget and Management  
Circuit Administrative Judges  
Honorable Scott McGlashan, Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Clerks  
Joseph C. Bryce, Chief Legislative Officer  
Stephen E. Harris, Esq., State Public Defender  
Frank Broccolina, State Court Administrator  
Karl S. Aro, Executive Director, Department of Legislative Reference  
Stephanie Ennel, Budget Analyst, Department of Budget and Management  
Elizabeth A. Forkin, Administrative Analyst, Department of Fiscal Services

# ANALYSIS OF NEED FOR ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS IN THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Fiscal Year 2004



Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judicial Center  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

November 1, 2002

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## CERTIFICATION PROCESS

At the suggestion of the Legislative Policy Committee, the Maryland Judiciary began an annual procedure of formally certifying to the General Assembly the need for additional judges on January 4, 1979. Since implementation, the process has allowed the Judiciary the opportunity to present the need for judgeships annually based on a review of comprehensive quantitative and qualitative factors relating to the capacity with which the State's judicial system is able to process cases in a timely and equitable manner.

Three different steps are involved in the Chief Judge's Certification Process. The starting point, and the subject of this report, is an analysis prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts. During the Fiscal Year 2002 certification process, the Administrative Office of the Courts employed a weighted caseload methodology to analyze the need quantitatively for additional judges in the Circuit and District Courts. The National Center for State Courts was contracted to work with representatives from the Judiciary to develop this particular workload assessment model. In brief, the method weights cases to account for the varying degrees of complexity and need for judicial attention. Using the weighted methodology provides a more accurate assessment of the amount of judicial time required to process caseload. The model requires a study of judge time to be conducted over a specified period of time. The case weights represent the average bench and non-bench time (in minutes) required to reach a disposition in each case type. Factors such as vacation and education leave, as well as the frequency of trials are taken into consideration when determining case weights. Once the weights are calculated, the number of available judge minutes is divided by the case weight to determine the number of cases a single judge should reasonably be able to handle during the year, thus the workload standard. Actual filings are then applied to the standard to determine judge need. It is important to emphasize that data obtained from this methodology are only precursory and are meant to act only as a starting point in determining the need for additional judicial positions.

The second phase of the certification process involves the individual trial courts. It is at this stage of development, after reviewing the preliminary analysis, that each County

and District Administrative Judge responds to the need for additional judgeships. In preparation of this response, the administrative judge is advised to: (1) seek the views of judges from that County or District; (2) solicit opinions from members of the bar from that County or District; and (3) in the case of the circuit courts, consult with the local government with respect to funding support. Administrative judges are required to conduct a thorough review of local conditions, as well as other pertinent factors that may support or contradict the quantitative analysis and result in specific recommendations relating to the need for additional judicial resources.

- District Court Administrative Judges respond directly to the Chief Judge of the District Court who prepares a final recommendation to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.
- Circuit Court Administrative Judges respond directly to the Administrative Office of the Courts which prepares recommendations to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

The final phase of the certification plan occurs when the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals reviews the quantitative analysis, the responses from the administrative judges and the administrative legislative leadership based on a distillation of all available information.

**JUDGESHIP NEED IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS  
FISCAL YEAR 2004**

**BASED ON WEIGHTED CASELOAD METHODOLOGY  
(JUDGESHIP NEED HAS BEEN ROUNDED)**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Actual Judges</b>	<b>Projected Need</b>	<b>Additional Judges Needed</b>
Allegany	2	1.9	0.0
Anne Arundel	10	12.8	2.0
Baltimore City*	30	32.8	2.0
Baltimore County	16	19.3	3.0
Calvert	2	2.6	0.0
Caroline	1	1.0	0.0
Carroll	3	3.7	0.0
Cecil	3	4.1	1.0
Charles	4	4.5	0.0
Dorchester	1	1.5	0.0
Frederick	4	4.9	0.0
Garrett	1	1.0	0.0
Harford	5	6.0	1.0
Howard	5	5.0	0.0
Kent	1	1.0	0.0
Montgomery	20	22.9	2.0
Prince George's	23	23.6	0.0
Queen Anne's	1	1.0	0.0
St. Mary's	3	1.9	0.0
Somerset	1	1.1	0.0
Talbot	1	1.3	0.0
Washington	4	5.1	1.0
Wicomico	3	3.4	0.0
Worcester**	2	2.8	1.0
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>146.0</b>	<b>165.2</b>	<b>13.0</b>

\*Due to a newly adopted method of statistical compilation, and pending a validation of this method, the judgeship need certified for Baltimore City in the previous assessment will be used for Fiscal Year 2004.

\*\*Judgeship would be shared with the other counties in the First Judicial Circuit (Dorchester, Somerset and Wicomico) for family law matters.



**JUDGESHIP NEED IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
FISCAL YEAR 2004**

**BASED ON WEIGHTED CASELOAD METHODOLOGY  
(JUDGESHIP NEED HAS BEEN ROUNDED)**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Actual Judges</b>	<b>Projected Need</b>	<b>Additional Judges Needed</b>
Allegany	2	1.4	0.0
Anne Arundel*	8	8.9	1.0
Baltimore City	26	27.8	1.0
Baltimore County	13	16.1	3.0
Calvert	1	1.6	0.0
Caroline	1	1.0	0.0
Carroll	2	2.1	0.0
Cecil	2	2.0	0.0
Charles	2	2.6	0.0
Dorchester	1	1.0	0.0
Frederick	3	3.4	0.0
Garrett	1	1.0	0.0
Hartford	4	3.5	0.0
Howard	5	4.2	0.0
Kent	1	1.0	0.0
Montgomery	11	11.5	0.0
Prince George's	13	16.3	3.0
Queen Anne's	1	1.0	0.0
St. Mary's*	1	1.5	1.0
Somerset	1	1.0	0.0
Talbot	1	1.0	0.0
Washington	2	2.9	0.0
Wicomico	2	2.6	0.0
Worcester	1	2.3	1.0
Statewide	105.0	117.7	10.0

\*Significant qualitative factors indicate a need for judicial resources (refer to Chief Judge Bell's transmittal letter and Chief Judge Vaughan's recommendation).

# Circuit Courts

## GENERAL TRENDS IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS

Over the last five years, the Circuit Courts have experienced an increase in total filings, from 277,204 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 289,920 filings. Increases were noted in three of the four functional case categories during that period. Domestic filings, which comprised nearly 33 percent of the total caseload during Fiscal Year 2002, rose approximately 8.3 percent. There were 88,414 domestic case filings reported during Fiscal Year 1998. That figure compares with 95,506 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. Of important note is that the courts have managed to dispose of these very sensitive, often life-altering matters, efficiently and expeditiously. Also increasing during the five-year period, were civil case filings. There was an 8.5 percent increase in civil filings, from 71,760 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 77,857 filings. Criminal filings rose 8.3 percent, from 71,770 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 77,750 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. Contributing to the increase in criminal filings was a 24.4 percent rise in requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court. There were 33,896 jury trial prayers reported during Fiscal Year 2002, compared with 27,257 during Fiscal Year 1998. The only functional area in which a decrease was noted was juvenile cases. There were 45,260 juvenile filings reported during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with 38,298 during Fiscal Year 2002, a decrease of approximately 15.4 percent. That decrease can be attributed to a change in reporting procedures for CINA, TPR and Adoption cases. Delinquency filings also decreased slightly during the five-year period, 2.5 percent, from 32,901 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 32,093 filings.

Since Fiscal Year 1998, judgeships in the Circuit Courts have increased from 140 to the current total of 146 judges which includes the three judgeships authorized as a result of the transfer of juvenile jurisdiction from the District Court to the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. The courts, while facing sensitive issues such as those associated with family matters, as well as complex civil litigation and criminal issues, have continued to find innovative ways to manage cases effectively and timely without

the benefit of additional resources. Each court has worked diligently to enhance its case management; adhere to strict continuance policies; adopt dispute resolution programs; and use retired judge resources. While certifying the need for additional judgeships each year, the Judiciary has been conscious of the need for fiscal constraint and, thus, searched for other means by which to handle the complex dockets with which they are faced. Despite these efforts, the Circuit Courts are rapidly approaching the limits of improved management and innovation.

## **CIRCUIT COURT ANALYSIS**

### **Allegany County**

Allegany County is one of three counties located in the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Maryland. It has a projected July 1, 2003, population of 75,800 residents, an increase of nearly two percent over the 2000 Census. There are two judges assigned to adjudicate Allegany County's caseload.

Over the last five years, filing activity in Allegany County decreased approximately 9.3 percent, from 3,826 filings during Fiscal Year 1998, to the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 3,470 total filings. Contributing to the overall decrease were decreases in civil and criminal case filings. The only increase over the five-year period occurred in juvenile filings. Since Fiscal Year 1998, civil filings decreased more than 13 percent, from 2,779, to the current level of 2,405 filings. That decrease can be attributed to a 15.8 percent decrease in domestic filings. During Fiscal Year 1998, there were 1,698 domestic case filings reported by Allegany County, compared with the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 1,429 filings. Likewise, criminal filings decreased more than 14 percent from 608 during Fiscal Year 1998 to 599 criminal filings during Fiscal Year 2002. A decrease of approximately 22.6 percent in jury trial prayers (from 438 in Fiscal Year 1998 to 339 in Fiscal Year 2002) contributed to the reported decrease. In contrast, juvenile filings rose 33.5 percent, from 349 during Fiscal Year 1998 to 466 juvenile filings reported during Fiscal Year 2002. A rather significant increase in delinquency filings over the last five years contributed to the reported increase. The Court has initiated several management programs in an attempt to improve efficiency in case processing, including accelerating the scheduling of initial appearances, establishing a stricter continuance policy and employing an active ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) Program in civil and family law cases.

### **Anne Arundel County**

Since the 2002 Census, population in Anne Arundel County has increased

approximately 4.1 percent, to the July 1, 2003, projected population of 509,500 residents. Currently, Anne Arundel County has ten judges. The quantitative analysis indicates a need for two additional judges.

Filing activity in Anne Arundel County has remained relatively consistent over the last five years. There were 20,712 total filings reported during Fiscal Year 2002, an increase of approximately 2.2 percent over the Fiscal Year 1998 level of 20,274 filings. Decreases were noted in three of the four functional areas, with the most significant decrease occurring in juvenile case filings. A 22.7 percent decrease was reported in juvenile filings during the five-year period, from 3,417 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 2,641 filings in Fiscal Year 2002. That decrease can be attributed to a decrease of nearly 13 percent in delinquency filings. There were 2,893 delinquency cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 2,519 filings. Also decreasing during the five-year period were overall civil case filings, from 12,585 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 11,912 filings, representing a 5.3 percent decrease. Contributing to the reported decrease was a decrease of approximately 10.8 percent in domestic filings, from 6,092 in Fiscal Year 1998 to 5,436 in Fiscal Year 2002. In sharp contrast, during the five-year period, criminal filings rose more than 44 percent, from 4,272 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 6,159 filings. Increases were noted in indictment and information filings (from 3,325 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 4,226 in Fiscal Year 2002) and requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court (from 479 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 890 in Fiscal Year 2002). Criminal appeals from the District Court increased more than 108 percent over the last five years. There were 390 appeals recorded during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with 814 during Fiscal Year 2002.

There were more than 27,000 hearings conducted during Fiscal Year 2002, an increase of nearly 13 percent over the previous year's total of 23,983 hearings. To better manage caseload, the Court has, among other initiatives, implemented a stricter continuance policy, scheduled more status conferences and employed a new civil case management plan designed to allow for early resolution of issues. During Fiscal Year

2002, the average time from filing to disposition of civil cases was 246 days, while criminal and juvenile case disposition averaged 114 days and 68 days, respectively.

### **Baltimore City**

Baltimore City has experienced an exodus of residents over the last ten years. Its July 1, 2003, projected population is 634,500 residents. There are thirty judges tasked with adjudicating Baltimore City's caseload. During Fiscal Year 2002, there reportedly were more than 89,000 hearings conducted.

While Baltimore City has experienced a steady decline in population, there has not been a corresponding reduction in filing activity. During Fiscal Year 2002, there were 68,457 total filings recorded. That figure represents 23.6 percent of the statewide total. More than 37 percent of Baltimore City's caseload comprised criminal case filings. There were 25,378 criminal cases reported during Fiscal Year 2002 accounting for approximately 32.6 percent of the total criminal caseload statewide and more than 38 percent of the State's felony filings.

Traditionally, the State's Attorney's Office in Baltimore City has employed a method of charging criminal defendants different from other jurisdictions. A single incident with multiple charges often is assigned separate case numbers for each charge often resulting in an inflated case count. As a result of implementing a new certification methodology and in an attempt to use data from Baltimore City that more closely aligns with the rest of the State, the National Center for State Courts in developing a workload assessment model used defendant-based statistics during the Fiscal Year 2001 needs analysis in determining judicial need in criminal matters in Baltimore City. That approach appears to under-represent the criminal caseload perhaps significantly because it fails to account for multiple appearances of the same defendant engaged in separate incidents. Since then, the State's Attorney's Office and the Court have arrived at a compromise in which they agreed, for statistical purposes, to use an incident tracking number as the unit for counting filings. In doing so, cases will be linked by

tracking number, to more accurately reflect court activity because all charges with the same tracking number will be associated with a single incident thereby constituting a single filing.

The Fiscal Year 2000 statistics based upon the State's Attorney Office traditional case-numbering methodology tended to reflect an over-representation of filings because multiple charges arising out of a single incident possibly could have been reported as separate filings. There was a precipitous decrease in criminal filings in Fiscal Year 2001 when the basis for counting changed from case number to defendant (from 25,710 in Fiscal Year 2000, to 12,992 in Fiscal Year 2001). An equally precipitous increase has occurred with the application of tracking number-based statistics for Fiscal Year 2002 criminal data. While the tracking number-based approach is a more reflective method of determining criminal caseload, there needs to be a fuller examination of its application to ascertain its validity. It is anticipated that the need for additional judgeships will increase, perhaps significantly from that indicated using the admittedly under-represented methodology, which indicated a need of two additional judges in Fiscal Year 2002. Until the new methodology has been validated, we will rely on the prior year's needs determination.

### **Baltimore County**

Baltimore County has a projected July 1, 2003, population of 782,400 residents. It is the third most populous jurisdiction in the State. Currently, there are sixteen judges assigned to Baltimore County. The statistical analysis indicates a need for three additional judges.

Over the last five years, filing activity in Baltimore County increased approximately 6.5 percent, from 28,055 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 29,874 filings. Contributing to the reported increase was a 19.8 percent rise in overall civil case filings. There were 15,402 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with 18,452 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. The reported increase can be attributed to a



25.7 percent rise in domestic filings, from 7,735 in Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 9,723 filings. In contrast, criminal filings decreased 11.2 percent, while juvenile filings decreased 7.4 percent over the last five years. There were 6,807 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 2002, compared with 7,667 filings during Fiscal Year 1998. A decrease of 31.3 percent in jury trial prayers (from 2,134 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 1,466 in Fiscal Year 2002), coupled with a 4.7 percent decrease in indictment and information filings (from 4,218 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 4,021 in Fiscal Year 2002) contributed to the overall decrease in criminal filings. The reported decrease in juvenile filings can be attributed to a 7.1 percent decrease in juvenile filings, from 4,249 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 3,947 filings reported in Fiscal Year 2002.

From filing to disposition, civil cases in Baltimore County averaged 250 days during Fiscal Year 2002. Criminal and juvenile case disposition averaged 123 and 85 days, respectively. The use of retired judges in settlement conferences, the employment of ADR programs in civil and domestic cases and the use of differentiated case management are among the initiatives undertaken in Baltimore County to more effectively and efficiently manage its caseload.

### **Calvert County**

Calvert County is located in the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland. Its population is projected to approximate 81,800 residents by July 1, 2003. Calvert County has two judges who presided over more than 6,700 hearings during Fiscal Year 2002.

Over the last five years, there has been a two percent rise in total filings in Calvert County, from 4,686 in Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 4,779 filings. A 14.5 percent rise in overall civil filings, mitigated by a 28.4 percent decrease in criminal filings, contributed to the slight increase in overall filings. There were 3,516 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 2002. That figure compares with 3,070 filings during Fiscal Year 1998. Domestic filings rose 13.7 percent (from 2,399 in Fiscal Year 1998 to 2,728 in Fiscal Year 2002) over the last five years, contributing to the reported increase in civil cases. In

contrast, the decrease in criminal filings can be attributed to a 43.4 percent decrease in indictment and information filings.

Valuing the importance of effective case processing, the Court has advanced several management tools to reduce delays without sacrificing due diligence. Among those initiatives are utilizing resources in family services to assist in effective case disposition, exercising greater control over continuances and evaluating the feasibility of establishing a Pro Se Clinic.

### **Caroline County**

Caroline County is located on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It has a projected July 1, 2003, population of 30,700 residents. This single-judge jurisdiction reported more than 3,000 hearings for Fiscal Year 2002.

Caroline County has experienced a 9 percent rise in total filings over the last five years, from 1,692 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 1,845 during Fiscal Year 2002. Increases were noted in both criminal and juvenile filings. There were 312 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 2002, representing an 82.5 percent increase over the Fiscal Year 1998 level of 171 filings. Contributing to the reported increase were increases in indictment and information filings (119.4 percent) and jury trial prayers (64.4 percent). There were 72 indictment and information cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with 158 filings reported during Fiscal Year 2002. Likewise, requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court rose from 73 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 120 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. Juvenile case filings increased more than 23 percent, from 280 during Fiscal Year 1998 to 345 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. The reported increase can be attributed to a 53 percent rise in delinquency filings (from 200 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 306 in Fiscal Year 2002). The only functional area in which a decrease was noted was in overall civil filings, from 1,241 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 1,185 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. A 6.9 percent decrease in domestic case filings, from 979 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 911 filings, contributed to reported decrease in total civil filings.

During Fiscal Year 2002, Caroline County reported an average case disposition time of 171 days for civil cases, 163 days for criminal cases and 36 days for juvenile cases. The Court, in an attempt to improve efficiency in case management and processing, has instituted scheduling conferences upon filing of the answer, which is expected to reduce delays.

### **Carroll County**

Carroll County continues to experience a steady influx of residents. The July 1, 2003, population is expected to approximate 158,300 residents. There are three judges assigned to Carroll County.

Along with the increase in population, Carroll County has noted a rise in filing activity over the last five years. There were 6,655 total filings reported during Fiscal Year 2002, representing an increase of nearly 13 percent over the Fiscal Year 1998 level of 5,896 filings. Increases were noted in two of the four functional areas. The greatest statistical increase occurred in criminal filings, 27.2 percent or 448 additional filings, from 1,645 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 2,093 criminal filings during Fiscal Year 2002. Contributing to that increase was a 57.4 percent rise in requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court. There were 756 jury trial prayers filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with 1,190 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. Juvenile filings also rose over the five-year period, from 799 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 1,168 filings, an increase of 46.2 percent. A 77.5 percent rise in delinquency filings (from 614 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 1,090 in Fiscal Year 2002) contributed to the reported increase in overall juvenile filings. Total civil filings decreased slightly during the last five years, 1.7 percent, from 3,452 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 3,394 filings.

Providing additional assistance to pro se litigants, revising the differentiated case management system in family matters, and conducting a periodic review of cases to avoid undue delays are among the initiatives implemented by the Court to improve judicial planning and case management.

## **Cecil County**

Cecil County is one of the fastest growing jurisdictions on the Eastern Shore. The population in that area of the State is expected to reach 91,500 residents by July 1, 2003. A statistical analysis indicates a need for one additional judge.

Coupled with the influx of residents in Cecil County has been a significant rise in filing activity in civil and criminal filings. There were 7,620 total filings recorded during Fiscal Year 2002, an increase of approximately 60.5 percent over the Fiscal Year 1998 level of 4,748 filings. Contributing most significantly to the reported increase was a 108.1 percent rise in total civil filings, from 2,522 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 5,248 during Fiscal Year 2002. That increase can be attributed to a 134.6 percent increase in domestic filings. There were 1,705 domestic cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with 4,000 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. Likewise, criminal filings rose 27.5 percent, from 1,445 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 1,843 filings. During the five-year period, jury trial prayers rose 27.1 percent, contributing to the reported increase.

Case disposition time for Fiscal Year 2002 averaged 182 days in civil cases, 197 days in criminal cases and 85 days in juvenile cases. The Court will continue to monitor statistics and track delays in scheduling in an effort to improve overall efficiency.

## **Charles County**

Not unlike other Southern Maryland Counties, Charles County continues to experience a growth in population with a July 1, 2003, projected population of 127,000 inhabitants. With a complement of four judges, Charles County conducted more than 10,000 hearings during Fiscal Year 2002.

Filing activity in Charles County has increased steadily over the last five years, from 7,644 total filings in Fiscal Year 1998, to the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 8,010 filings. Those figures represent an increase of 4.8 percent. Increases were noted in each of the functional areas with the greatest increase occurring in criminal filings. There were

1,703 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 2002, an increase of 15.1 percent over the Fiscal Year 1998 level of 1,479 filings. The aforementioned increase can be attributed to a 42.1 percent rise in jury trial prayers, from 624 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 887 filings. Juvenile filings followed, increasing nearly 12 percent. There were 923 juvenile filings reported during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 1,032 filings. Contributing to that increase was a 26.4 percent rise in delinquency filings, from 783 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 990 filings reported in Fiscal Year 2002. Total civil filings remained relatively constant over the five-year period, increasing less than one percent.

To improve efficiency in case processing, the Court has committed to improving scheduling procedures, enforcing a stricter continuance policy and providing greater access to services to pro se litigants.

### **Dorchester County**

Dorchester County is located in the First Judicial Circuit. Its projected July 1, 2003, population is 31,300 residents, representing a slight increase over the last Census. A single-judge jurisdiction, Dorchester County reported more than 2,600 hearings for Fiscal Year 2002.

For the last five years, filings in Dorchester County remained consistent, increasing less than one percent. There were 2,396 total filings reported during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 2,442 filings. Domestic filings continued to comprise the greatest percentage of case filings. During Fiscal Year 2002, there were 1,178 domestic filings reported, representing more than 48 percent of the total caseload. In comparison, domestic filings accounted for 50.3 percent of the total caseload in Fiscal Year 1998. Over the last five years, indictment and information filings increased 19.5 percent, from 344 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 411 filings. Overall, criminal filings rose 12.5 percent during the five-year period. There were 632 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the Fiscal Year

2002 level of 711 filings.

During Fiscal Year 2002, case disposition time for civil cases reportedly averaged 167 days. Criminal and juvenile case disposition averaged 127 days and 57 days, respectively. Dorchester County is exploring several initiatives to improve case processing, such as closer monitoring of continuances and the continued and expanded use of early case screening and monitoring case progress.

### **Frederick County**

Frederick County is the fastest growing subdivision in Western Maryland. Its July 1, 2003, projected population is 209,000 residents. There are four judges assigned to adjudicate Frederick County's ever-increasing caseload. The number of hearings conducted in Frederick County during Fiscal Year 2002 exceeded 8,000.

Since Fiscal Year 1998, Frederick County has experienced an increase of approximately 35.5 percent in total filings. Increases were noted in each functional area with the greatest statistical increase occurring in total civil filings. There were 4,685 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 2002, representing an increase of 39.2 percent or 1,320 additional filings over the Fiscal Year 1998 level of 3,365 filings. The aforementioned increase can be attributed to a 51.6 percent rise in domestic filings, from 2,120 filings during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 3,213 filings. Criminal case filings followed, increasing nearly 53 percent. There were 1,530 criminal filings reported during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 2,339 filings. During the five-year period, jury trial prayers increased 77.6 percent (from 893 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 1,586 in Fiscal Year 2002), while criminal appeals from the District Court rose 44.4 percent over the last five years (from 144 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 208 in Fiscal Year 2002). There was a 15.3 percent increase in juvenile filings, from 1,933 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 2,228 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. During that same period delinquency filings rose 37.2 percent. There were 1,472 delinquency filings reported during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the current level of 2,019 filings.

In an effort to maintain efficient processing of cases given the increasing caseload, the Court has employed the use of status conferences in criminal cases to help limit continuances and resolve pre-trial matters in a timely manner. The Court also specially assigns complex civil cases, which has helped to reduce continuances as well.

### **Garrett County**

Garrett County is Maryland's western most subdivision. It is projected that by July 1, 2003, this subdivision will be home to 30,100 residents. There is one judge assigned to Garrett County.

Over the last five years, Garrett County has experienced a 5.3 percent decrease in total filings, from 1,122 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 1,062 filings. Contributing to the reported decrease were decreases in overall civil and juvenile case filings, mitigated by an increase in criminal filings. There were 747 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 2002, representing a 14.7 percent decrease from the Fiscal Year 1998, level of 876 filings. The aforementioned decrease can be attributed to a 21.7 percent decrease in domestic filings. There were 654 domestic cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the current level of 512 filings. Also decreasing over the five-year period were juvenile case filings, from 212 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 189 filings during Fiscal Year 2002, a decrease of approximately 10.8 percent. The only increase over the five-year period occurred in criminal filings, from 129 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 186 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. Those figures represent an increase of 44.2 percent. That increase can be attributed to an 111.3 percent rise in indictment and information filings, from 62 indictment during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 131 filings.

Civil cases averaged 206 days from filing to disposition during Fiscal Year 2002, while criminal and juvenile cases averaged 148 days and 60 days, respectively. To improve case processing, the Court is enforcing a strict continuance policy and is more closely monitoring cases referred to mediation.

## **Harford County**

Since the 2000 Census, Harford County has experience an influx of nearly 10,000 residents. It is projected that population will reach 227,700 by July 1, 2003. There are five judges tasked with adjudicating Harford County's caseload. Based on the statistical analysis, a need exists for one additional judge.

Total filings in Harford County have increased approximately 38 percent over the last five years. There were 7,577 filings reported during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 10,457 filings. The aforementioned increase can be attributed to a 71.5 percent rise in civil case filings, from 4,139 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 7,100 filings. Domestic filings rose approximately 99.6 percent over the five-year period, contributing the increase in overall civil filings. There were 2,589 domestic filings reported during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with 5,167 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. With respect to criminal case filings, jury trial prayers rose 10.1 percent over the last five years (from 1,370 in Fiscal Year 1998 to 1,508 in Fiscal Year 2002), while indictment and information filings decreased 12.5 percent (from 846 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 740 in Fiscal Year 2002), contributing to the slight increase of less than one percent.

An average of 174 days lapsed from filing to disposition in civil cases during Fiscal Year 2002. Criminal case disposition averaged 120 days, while 64 days were expended on juvenile case disposition. Among the procedural and management tools adopted to improve case management are prompt scheduling of pre-trial conferences, adoption of a strict continuance policy, and setting a scheduling conference earlier in the process in civil and domestic cases.

## **Howard County**

Howard County is located in the Fifth Judicial Circuit. Population in that subdivision has steadily increased to the July 1, 2003 projected level of 267,400 inhabitants. With a complement of five judges, Howard County reported more than



8,600 hearings for Fiscal Year 2002.

While experiencing a rise in population, Howard County has noted a decrease in filing activity over the last five years. Since Fiscal Year 1998, total filings have decreased approximately 3.5 percent. A rather significant decrease in criminal filings, mitigated by a rise in both civil and juvenile filings contributed to the reported decrease in overall filings. There were 1,775 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 2002, representing a 20.1 percent decrease from the Fiscal Year 1998 level of 2,221 filings. That decrease can be attributed to decreases in indictment and information filings, 28.2 percent (from 848 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 609 in Fiscal Year 2002) and in requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court, 11.7 percent (from 1,095 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 967 in Fiscal Year 2002). In contrast, juvenile filings rose 4.9 percent during the five-year period. There were 1,294 juvenile cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the current level of 1,357 filings. A 16.9 percent increase in CINA filings, from 207 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 242 in Fiscal Year 2002, contributed to the reported increase. Civil case filings increased as well, however slightly. There were 4,845 civil case filings reported during Fiscal Year 2002, an increase of 1.9 percent over the Fiscal Year 1998 level of 4,755 filings.

During Fiscal Year 2002, civil case disposition averaged 242 days, while criminal and juvenile case disposition averaged 138 days and 68 days, respectively. Among the efforts undertaken by the Court to improve efficiency are providing more opportunities for ADR intervention, reviewing continuance rates and reasons more closely, and exploring measures to expedite the scheduling of appeals and jury trial prayers from the District Court.

### Kent County

Maryland's least populated subdivision, Kent County is expected to house 19,600 residents by July 1, 2003. That figure represents approximately 400 additional residents since the 2000 Census. Kent County is a single judge jurisdiction. During Fiscal Year

2002, approximately 1,900 hearings were conducted.

While noting an increase in indictment and information filings over the last five years, from 80 in Fiscal Year 1998, to the current total of 107 filings as well as a 94.4 percent rise in jury trial prayers (from 71 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 138 in Fiscal Year 2002). Kent County reported a decrease in overall filings of approximately 24.1 percent during the same period. There were 1,463 total cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 1,111 filings. Contributing to that decrease was a 37.1 percent decrease in civil case filings, from 1,190 in Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 748 filings. That decrease can be attributed to a 44.1 percent decrease in domestic filings. There were 1,037 domestic cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared to 580 filings in Fiscal Year 2002.

The average time from filing of a civil case to its disposition during Fiscal Year 2002 was 169 days. Criminal cases averaged 138 days, while an average of 49 days was expended in juvenile case disposition. Initiatives undertaken by the Court for improved case management include utilization of pre-trial status conferences in criminal cases, enforcement of a strict continuance policy and continued use of a settlement judge in civil cases.

### **Montgomery County**

Montgomery County is the most populous jurisdiction in Maryland. It is expected to be home to nearly 914,000 residents by July 1, 2003. Montgomery County has a complement of twenty judges. The statistical analysis indicated a need for two additional judges.

Overall filing activity in Montgomery County remained relatively steady over the last five years, increasing only 1.1 percent. There were 35,547 total filings reported during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 35,921 filings. However, the distribution of case filings fluctuated during the five-year period. Civil filings rose approximately five percent, from 23,980 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the

current level of 25,181 filings. Within the overall civil case type, domestic filings rose 11.3 percent (from 10,013 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 11,146 in Fiscal Year 2002), while tort filings decreased 34.1 percent (from 2,141 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 1,410 in Fiscal Year 2002). Likewise, a 52.8 percent increase was noted in criminal filings, from 4,400 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 6,722 filings. Contributing to the reported increase was a 33 percent rise in indictment and information filings (from 2,250 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 2,992 in Fiscal Year 2002), coupled with a 121 percent increase in jury trial prayers (from 1,241 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 2,743 in Fiscal Year 2002). The 43.9 percent decrease in juvenile filings mitigated the increases in civil and criminal filings, resulting in the slight overall rise in filings. Juvenile case filings decreased from 7,167 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 4,018 during Fiscal Year 1998. Contributing to the reported decrease was a 34.7 percent decrease in delinquency filings, from 5,689 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 3,713 filings during Fiscal Year 2002.

Montgomery County reportedly averaged 138 days from filing to disposition in civil cases during Fiscal Year 2002. During the same period, criminal case disposition averaged 82 days, while 83 days were expended on juvenile case disposition. In an effort to maintain efficiency in case processing, the Court has continued to strictly enforce its continuance policy, reduce delays between initial trial date and rescheduled trial dates and develop a differentiated case management plan for juvenile cases.

### **Prince George's County**

Located in Maryland's Seventh Judicial Circuit, Prince George's County is home to 832,300 residents making it the second most populous subdivision in the State. There are twenty-three judges assigned to adjudicate Prince George's County's caseload.

Over the last five years, filing activity in Prince George's County has declined, from 44,239 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 40,615 filings, a decrease of 8.2 percent. Decreases were noted in both overall civil and juvenile case filings, while a slight increase occurred in criminal filings. Civil filings decreased 8.8

percent, from 28,964 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 26,413 filings. That decrease can be attributed to a 16.7 percent decrease in domestic case filings, from 17,345 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 14,442 filings. Likewise, juvenile cases decreased 20.7 percent, from 5,751 in Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 4,562 filings. A change in reporting procedures in CINA, TPR and Adoption cases contributed to that decrease. During the same period, delinquency filings rose approximately 11.9 percent, from 3,676 in Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 4,115 filings. A 29.8 percent rise in jury trial prayers (from 3,878 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 5,032 in Fiscal Year 2000), mitigated by a 16.7 percent decrease in indictment and information filings, (from 4,738 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 3,949 in Fiscal Year 2002) contributed to the slight overall rise in criminal filings. There were 9,640 criminal case filings reported during Fiscal Year 2002, a 1.2 percent increase over the Fiscal Year 1998 level of 9,524 filings.

During Fiscal Year 2002, Prince George's County reported an average case disposition time in civil cases of 236 days, 114 days in criminal case disposition and 52 days in juvenile case disposition. Among the initiatives undertaken to ensure optimal efficiency in case management are analyzing continuances regularly, eliminating extended periods of inactivity in cases, and developing a pro se education program.

### **Queen Anne's County**

Located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, Queen Anne's County continues to attract new residents. It is projected that this subdivision will be home to approximately 43,100 residents by July 1, 2003. A single-judge jurisdiction, there were more than 1,600 hearings conducted in Queen Anne's County during Fiscal Year 2002.

While criminal filing activity has risen nearly 61 percent over the last five years, from 160 during Fiscal Year 1998 to 257 filings during Fiscal Year 2002, overall filings decreased approximately 21 percent. There were 1,918 total cases filed in Queen Anne's County during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the current level of 1,515 filings. The

increase in criminal filings can be attributed to a 98.5 percent rise in indictment and information filings (from 66 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 131 filings in Fiscal Year 2002), coupled with a 54.4 percent increase in jury trial prayers (from 57 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 88 in Fiscal Year 2002). In contrast, civil case filings decreased 27 percent, from 1,431 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 1,044 filings. That decrease can be attributed to a 40.4 percent decrease in domestic filings, from 976 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 582 filings. Likewise, juvenile filings decreased 34.6 percent, from 327 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 214 during Fiscal Year 2002. During that same period, delinquency filings decreased 22 percent, from 227 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 177 filings.

During Fiscal Year 2002, civil case disposition averaged 180 days, while criminal and juvenile case disposition averaged 110 days and 50 days, respectively. Several initiatives have been implemented in Queen Anne's County to ensure effective case management, including timely issuance of scheduling orders, strict enforcement of the continuance policy and timely application of Rule 2-507.

### **St. Mary's County**

Located on the southern most tip of Maryland, approximately 89,700 people are expected to populate St. Mary's County by July 1, 2003. St. Mary's County's three resident judges conducted more than 3,100 hearings during Fiscal Year 2002.

In contrast to the influx of residents to St. Mary's County, filing activity has decreased by nearly 32 percent over the last five years. There were 5,082 cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with 3,460 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. Decreases were noted in each of the functional areas, with the most significant statistical decrease occurring in overall civil filings. There were 2,393 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 2002, a decrease of 35.3 percent or 1,304 filings from the Fiscal Year 1998 level of 3,697 filings. Contributing to the reported decrease was a 43 percent decrease in domestic filings. There were 3,000 domestic cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with

the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 1,710 filings. Juvenile filings followed decreasing more than 39 percent, from 612 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 372 filings. A 25.5 percent decrease in delinquency filings (from 467 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 348 during Fiscal Year 2002) contributed to the decrease in juvenile filings. Criminal case filings also decreased during the five-year period, 10.1 percent, from 773 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 695 in Fiscal Year 2002. That decrease can be attributed to a 23.7 percent decrease in requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court, from 481 during Fiscal Year 1998 to the current total of 367 filings.

The average time from filing to disposition during Fiscal Year 2002 was 176 days for civil cases, 115 days for criminal cases and 68 days for juvenile cases. Court staff participated in case flow principles training to gain a better understanding of tools and techniques for improved case management. The Court is exploring several of those management tools.

### **Somerset County**

Somerset County is located in the First Judicial Circuit of Maryland. Population in that subdivision is expected to approximate 25,300 by July 1, 2003. One of several single-judge jurisdictions on the Eastern Shore, Somerset County recorded more than 2,400 hearings during Fiscal Year 2002.

Filing activity decreased approximately 10.3 percent over the last five years in Somerset County. There were 2,248 total cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the Fiscal Year 2002 total of 2,016 filings. Contributing most significantly to the reported decrease was a 38.7 percent decrease in criminal filings, from 558 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 342 filings. Decreases in jury trial prayers (from 345 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 163 in Fiscal Year 2002) and indictment and information filings (from 187 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 146 in Fiscal Year 2002) contributed to the reported decrease in criminal filings. In contrast, a 4.1 percent increase in domestic filings contributed to the 8.3 percent rise in total civil filings. There were 1,385

civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the current total of 1,500 civil filings.

Civil case disposition averaged 135 days during Fiscal Year 2002 in Somerset County. The average time expended in criminal cases was 92 days, while juvenile cases averaged 43 days. The Court has undertaken several initiatives to ensure effective case management, including implementation of a strict continuance policy, open and continuous communication with the State's Attorney and Public Defender and the use of retired judges to preside over settlement conferences.

### **Talbot County**

Talbot County is located in the Second Judicial Circuit. Its July 1, 2003, projected population is 34,800 residents. Talbot County has one resident judge. During Fiscal Year 2002, more than 2,600 hearings were conducted.

Over the last five years, total filings have increased more than 20 percent in Talbot County, from 1,929 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current total of 2,329 filings. Increases were noted in three of the four functional areas, with the greatest increase reported in juvenile filings. There was a 60 percent increase reported in juvenile case filings, from 285 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 456 filings. That increase can be attributed to a 123.8 percent rise in delinquency filings, from 189 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 423 filings. Likewise, total civil case filings rose 23 percent, from 1,157 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 1,423 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. A 22.4 percent increase in domestic case filings contributed to the overall increase. There were 891 domestic cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with 1,091 during Fiscal Year 2002. The only functional area to experience a decrease during the five-year period was criminal, decreasing 8 percent. There were 487 criminal cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with 448 during Fiscal Year 2002. A 51.9 percent decrease in criminal appeals (from 52 in Fiscal Year 1998 to 25 in Fiscal Year 2002) contributed to the reported decrease.

Civil case disposition averaged 201 days, while criminal and juvenile case disposition averaged 125 days and 42 days, respectively. The Court has made several strides toward ensuring effective case management. Among those efforts are implementing a case management plan for civil cases, utilizing domestic masters to conduct scheduling conferences in domestic cases, and generating additional management reports to track progress.

### **Washington County**

Located in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, Washington County is expected to be home to approximately 135,400 residents by July 1, 2003. Washington County has four resident judges. The statistical analysis indicates a need for an additional judge. During Fiscal Year 2002, there were more than 6,400 hearings conducted.

Filing activity in Washington County increased 6.9 percent over the last five years, from 8,353 filings during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 8,926 filings. Contributing to the reported increase were increases in domestic and delinquency filings, as well as a rise in the number of requests for jury trials emanating from the District Court. There were 4,271 domestic cases filed during Fiscal Year 2002, an increase of 19 percent over the Fiscal Year 1998 level of 3,590 filings. Likewise, delinquency filings increased 22.1 percent (from 562 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 686 in Fiscal Year 2002), while a 16 percent increase was noted in jury trial prayers, from 1,359 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 1,576 filings.

Overall, civil filings rose 11.2 percent during the five-year period. There were 4,848 civil case filings reported during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the Fiscal Year 2002 total of 5,393 filings. Criminal filings also increased during the same period, from 2,409 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 2,714 in Fiscal Year 2002, an increase of 12.7 percent.

During Fiscal Year 2002, civil case disposition averaged 196 days, while criminal and juvenile case disposition averaged 105 days and 63 days, respectively. Ever conscious of the importance of effective case management, the Court has employed



several tools to ensure efficiency. Among those tools is strict enforcement of the continuance policy, effective use of settlement conferences in domestic cases, and improvement to procedures for handling juvenile waivers.

### **Wicomico County**

Wicomico County is housed in the First Judicial Circuit. It is one of the most populous subdivisions on the Eastern Shore with a July 1, 2003, projected population of 89,000 residents. Wicomico County has three judges tasked with adjudicating its ever-increasing caseload. During Fiscal Year 2002, there were more than 6,200 hearings conducted.

There has been a significant rise in filing activity in Wicomico County over the last five years. Total filings increased from 4,778 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 6,185 filings, an increase of 29.4 percent. Increases were noted in each of the functional areas. Total civil case filings rose 30 percent during the five-year period, from 2,473 during Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 3,214 filings. That increase can be attributed to a 38.4 percent increase in domestic filings. There were 1,710 domestic cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with 2,367 filings during Fiscal Year 2002. Likewise, a 25.1 percent increase was noted in criminal filings during the last five years, from 1,874 in Fiscal Year 1998, to the current level of 2,345 filings. During the five-year period, jury trial prayers increased 39.4 percent (from 965 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 1,345 in Fiscal Year 2002), while a 3.5 percent increase was reported in indictment and information filings (from 774 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 801 in Fiscal Year 2002). Juvenile filings also increased, from 431 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 626 during Fiscal Year 2002, an increase of 45.2 percent. The aforementioned increase can be attributed to an 83 percent rise in delinquency filings. There were 312 delinquency cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998. That figure compares with the Fiscal Year 2002 level of 571 filings.

Civil case disposition in Wicomico County averaged 231 days during Fiscal Year

2002, while criminal case disposition averaged 86 days. An average of 49 days was expended from filing to disposition of juvenile cases during that same period. Several initiatives have been undertaken to improve case management in Wicomico County, including immediate rescheduling of continued cases, closer monitoring of cases to ensure that psychological and medical evaluations are received in a timely manner and weekly juvenile arraignments in an attempt to move toward legal representation for juveniles.

### **Worcester County**

Worcester County is located in the First Judicial Circuit. It is projected that population in this subdivision will approximate 50,900 residents by July 1, 2003. There are two judges assigned to Worcester County. During Fiscal Year 2002, there reportedly were more than 2,600 hearings conducted.

During the last five years, total filings in Worcester County rose nearly 33 percent. There were 5,160 case filings reported during Fiscal Year 2002, an additional 1,270 case filings over the Fiscal Year 1998 total of 3,890 filings. Contributing most significantly to the reported increase was a 74 percent rise in overall civil case filings, from 2,030 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 3,532 filings reported during Fiscal Year 2002. The aforementioned increase can be attributed to an 84.2 percent increase in domestic filings. There were 1,261 domestic cases filed during Fiscal Year 1998, compared with the current level of 2,323 filings. Also increasing during the five-year period were indictment and information filings, from 334 during Fiscal Year 1998, to 419 filings during Fiscal Year 2002, an increase of approximately 25.4 percent. During the same period, jury trial prayers decreased nearly 20 percent, from 1,131 in Fiscal Year 1998, to 906 filings reported during Fiscal Year 2002.

Case disposition time during Fiscal Year 2002 averaged 167 days for civil cases, 93 days for criminal cases and 68 days for juvenile cases. Among the steps taken to ensure effective management of cases in Worcester County is mediation for complicated

civil matters, scheduling conferences for domestic cases within 30-60 days after case is at issue and the use of ADR programs.

# District Court



**DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**

**JAMES N. VAUGHAN**  
Chief Judge

September 5, 2002

Courts of Appeal Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Tel: (410) 260-1525  
Fax: (410) 974-5026

The Honorable Robert M. Bell  
Chief Judge, Court of Appeals of Maryland  
634 Courthouse East  
111 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Judge Bell: *Chief*

Our need for additional judgeships in the District Court is as great, if not greater, as that outlined in our certification request last year (copy enclosed.) I am aware of the state's fiscal crisis, but feel it incumbent on me to restate our need for the same six additional judgeships that we requested last year: District One, Baltimore City (1); District Two, Worcester County (1); District Four, St. Mary's County (1); District Five, Prince George's County (2), and District Seven, Anne Arundel County (1).

In addition to the information submitted in last year's request, I offer the following comments:

**DISTRICT ONE - BALTIMORE CITY**

Motor vehicle filings are up drastically from last year's statistics. Criminal filings have also shown an increase. Although landlord/tenant filings have slightly declined, there has been a contrasting increase in contract/tort cases. Baltimore City is second to Prince George's County in the number of domestic violence cases filed, totaling 3,628, and third highest in the state for peace orders. The judicial workload assessment conducted approximately two years ago recommended the addition of at least two judges to this jurisdiction.

**DISTRICT TWO - WORCESTER COUNTY**

We continue to try to keep abreast of our caseload in this jurisdiction by "shifting" judges, which has a "robbing Peter to pay Paul effect." The time has come that we can no longer

The Honorable Robert M. Bell  
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refer to Ocean City as a summer court. Since last year's report, criminal case filings have increased, and the number of DWI citations has doubled!

#### **DISTRICT FOUR - ST. MARY'S COUNTY**

This is the fourth year in which we have asked for the creation of an additional judgeship for St. Mary's County. We remain in need of this judgeship to serve our needs, and the needs of the public, in this district.

#### **DISTRICT FIVE - PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**

The National Center for State Courts, in its assessment of our judicial workload, recommended the addition of at least four judges to serve the needs of the citizens of Prince George's County. Last year, to be conservative and recognizing our needs statewide, we asked for the creation of two additional judgeships. We reiterate our need for these two judgeships.

#### **DISTRICT SEVEN - ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

This is the third year the administrative judge in this district has asked for the creation of an additional judgeship. Although able to certify this need, this is only the second year in which we have requested that you certify our request.

As you know, two of our existing judges were recently appointed to the circuit court, but this left only one vacancy due to former Chief Judge Rasin returning to the trial bench.

Typically, the judges in this jurisdiction spend long hours on the bench. High case filings also continue in this jurisdiction.

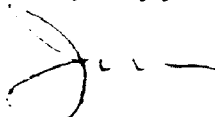
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We rely heavily on the use of retired judges to keep our courtrooms open and running when judges take leave or retire. These judges continue to be of enormous assistance to us, but with our heavy dockets we must use these judges to the maximum in order to keep up with our caseload. Several of these judges are sitting so much that they are "maxing-out" before the end of the year, leaving us with no possible way to cover emergencies, training, etc. in certain parts of the state.

The Honorable Robert M. Bell  
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September 5, 2002

Your consideration is very much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. N. Vaughan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James N. Vaughan  
Chief Judge

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Keith E. Mathews  
The Honorable John L. Norton, III  
The Honorable Stephen L. Clagett  
The Honorable Frank M. Kratovil  
The Honorable James W. Dryden  
Ms. Patricia L. Platt  
Mr. Richard W. Clemens  
Ms. Lisa I. Ritter  
Ms. Barbara J. Allison



**DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**

**MARTHA F. RASIN**

*Chief Judge*

Courts of Appeal Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Tel: (410) 260-1525  
Fax: (410) 974-5025

September 10, 2001

The Honorable Robert M. Bell  
Chief Judge, Court of Appeals of Maryland  
634 Courthouse East  
111 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Judge Bell:

In accordance with established procedure I have solicited the views of our twelve administrative judges as to whether a need exists in their respective districts for additional judgeships. I received the following requests: District One, Baltimore City (1); District Two, Worcester County (1); District Four, St. Mary's County (1); District Five, Prince George's County (4), and District Seven, Anne Arundel County (1).

After a review of supporting documentation and my own analysis of our statewide needs, I am herewith submitting the request that you certify a need for six additional judgeships, as follows: District One, Baltimore City (1); District Two, Worcester County (1); District Four, St. Mary's County (1); District Five, Prince George's County (2), and District Seven, Anne Arundel County (1). You will recall that last year four of these judgeships were included in your certification request, Baltimore City, Worcester County, St. Mary's County and Prince George's County. The General Assembly treated our request favorably for the most part. If anything, the merits of last year's request are even stronger since no judgeships were created.

**DISTRICT ONE - BALTIMORE CITY**

The courtroom in central booking is now operating five days a week, necessitating the assignment of one District Court judge there every day. The Early Disposition Docket at our Eastside court is running five days a week with the assignment of one full-time judge. In addition, our "drug court" is fully operational and requires the assignment of a judge who has special knowledge in the area of drug treatment. Another specialty docket is the domestic violence docket, which occupies a judge full time.



The Honorable Robert M. Bell  
Page Two  
September 10, 2001

This district is the only district in the state that necessitates a full-time housing docket, and is the only jurisdiction within our court that has condemnation powers.

As Judge Mathews points out in his enclosed letter, Baltimore City is also the only jurisdiction where it takes four judicial days a week for the handling of parking tickets.

A slight decline in filings has not eased the strain on our judicial resources in Baltimore City. The increase in civil jurisdiction, with more complex cases, decreases the amount of time available for "routine" adjudication in other areas. I am concerned that judges in Baltimore City are cutting corners just to get the work done. We need additional judicial resources to prevent this. The recent workload assessment study determined the need for at least two additional judges for Baltimore City. However, at this time we are asking for the creation of only one additional judgeship.

Space to accommodate this judgeship will be available with the opening of the new John R. Hargrove District Court Building, now slated for December, 2002. Monies will be placed in the budget for staffing, contingent on the receipt of this judgeship. (For easy reference, last year's supporting documentation is enclosed.)

## **DISTRICT TWO - WORCESTER COUNTY**

Judge Norton very adequately sets out in his supporting documentation our need for an additional judgeship in this jurisdiction. I, again, wholeheartedly support his request. This judgeship would be based in Ocean City, where we presently have a chambers and courtroom to accommodate this position; however, as you see below, the creation of one new judgeship in this lower shore district will help all counties. We envision the new judge would sit about half of the time in Ocean City and the other half in Salisbury.

We are presently supporting our Ocean City court by borrowing our "Snow Hill judge," whose own caseload now reflects the need for additional court days. The heavy caseload generated in Ocean City, particularly in the summer months, indeed places a burden on most of the surrounding courts in that jurisdiction. As Judge Norton points out, our present availability of judicial resources in this locality has generated difficulty in accommodating public need for prompt adjudication.

The caseload in our Wicomico County court has consistently increased over the past five years. The increase in just the number of domestic violence cases has necessitated a scheduled protective hearing docket, and it will not be long before delays will start to occur in the sufficient setting of trial dates in other areas. At present this facility is being renovated to accommodate a

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third courtroom, thereby providing the space needed for a "part-time" Worcester County judge to assist with the growing caseload in this jurisdiction.

The caseload in our Somerset County court has also steadily increased over the past five years. By necessity, our judge in that jurisdiction has been helping out in both Worcester and Wicomico County. The creation of a new judgeship for Worcester County would afford Somerset County an additional day per week to address the beginnings of initial trial delays.

I believe the enclosed documentation sufficiently supports the need for an additional judgeship in this district, and that the creation of such a judgeship would greatly enhance the quality of justice for our citizens on the lower shore. (For easy reference, last year's supporting documentation is enclosed.)

#### **DISTRICT FOUR - ST. MARY'S COUNTY**

For the past three years the administrative judge in this district has asked that we seek an additional judgeship for St. Mary's County. His request was included in our certification last year.

As Judge Clagett points out in his enclosed letter, this is one of the fastest growing regions in the state, with the highest population in the state per District Court judge. The criminal and civil dockets in St. Mary's County, as well as Calvert County, are to the critical point. The number of criminal cases filed in St. Mary's County continues to rise. There has also been a corresponding increase in contract/tort cases, as well as an increase in the number of peace orders. Judge Clagett reports that the criminal and civil dockets in St. Mary's are such that it is taking, in some cases, six to ten months to get a trial date. He states that "as a general rule" it is taking at least four months to set criminal cases in Calvert County.

All over the state it has become increasingly necessary for judges to devote more time to complex civil cases, in trial, in pre-hearing conferences, and in chambers.

A second judge in St. Mary's will serve not only that county but also the district. As with the request for District Two (lower shore), a new judge in District Four Southern Maryland judge would meet a regional need. The addition of a judge in St. Mary's County not only would ease the burdens in that county but would greatly reduce the time that it now takes to get an initial trial date in Calvert County. I support Judge Clagett's request, and have enclosed documentation for this year as well as for the past two years. Chambers and courtroom space are available, and monies have been requested in the budget for a bailiff and courtroom clerk, contingent upon the receipt of this judgeship.

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#### **DISTRICT FIVE - PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY**

Judge Kratovil's enclosed memorandum asks for the creation of four additional judgeships for Prince George's County. His request was based, in part, on the recent assessment by the National Center for State Courts, recommending an additional 4.5 judges for this jurisdiction. While Judge Kratovil has made a good case, and while there may well be a need for four, I am being conservative and taking our statewide needs into consideration and asking that you certify a need for two additional judgeships for this district.

Prince George's County continues to have the highest number of domestic violence cases in the state, with 3,602 cases for the period July, 2000 through June, 2001. This jurisdiction trails Baltimore County only slightly in the number of peace orders, with 1,057 such filings for the same time period. Indeed, this county is not far behind Baltimore City in the number of landlord/tenant cases. There were 123,935 such cases filed in this time frame. This district is also second to only Baltimore City in the number of criminal cases filed.

I have enclosed Judge Kratovil's current documentation, as well as his request from last year, and ask that you certify a need for two additional judgeships for Prince George's County. Chambers and courtrooms are available, and monies will be placed in the budget for courtroom staff, contingent upon the receipt of these judgeships.

#### **DISTRICT SEVEN - ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

You will recall that last year the administrative judge in this district submitted documentation for an additional judgeship in this jurisdiction. Although I felt he made a very good case, after taking into consideration our statewide judicial needs, I recommended that we not seek a judgeship in Anne Arundel County.

Judge Dryden has again submitted his request. I concur, and ask that you certify a need for an additional judgeship in Anne Arundel County. The need for a new judge has increased in the past year.

The judges in this district continue to spend more time on the bench than in any other. Current statistics covering the time period July, 2000 through June, 2001 show more criminal case filings than in Montgomery County, and the number of drunk driving cases for that same time period is the highest in the state, with 6,905 such cases. Landlord/tenant filings are also slightly up in this district, and there has been an increase in the number of domestic violence cases. As you know, nearly every domestic violence case requires two hearings within a two-week period.

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I have enclosed Judge Dryden's current request, as well as his supporting documentation last year, and ask that you certify a need for an additional judgeship in Anne Arundel County. Space is available for the conversion of a courtroom and chambers, and monies will be placed in the budget for an additional bailiff and clerk to staff the courtroom.

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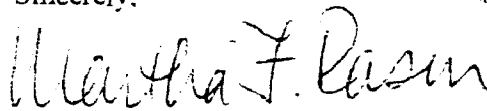
We rely heavily on the use of retired judges to keep courtrooms open and running when judges retire or take leave. These judges are of enormous assistance to us, but I believe that we cannot continue to rely solely on them to provide the level of service that we have in the past. Our ability to use retired judges for other valuable services such as conducting settlement conferences and helping to reduce backlogs is greatly reduced by our necessity of relying on them for day-to-day assistance in "regular" cases. From July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001 we assigned retired judges for a total of 1,710.5 judge days as compared to 1,522 this same time last year.

I appreciate your consideration in certifying the need for the following judgeships:

District One, Baltimore City	1
District Two, Worcester County	1
District Four, St. Mary's County	1
District Five, Prince George's County	2
District Seven, Anne Arundel County	1

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Martha F. Rasin

MFR:bj

Enclosures

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cc: The Honorable Keith E. Mathews  
The Honorable John L. Norton, III  
The Honorable Stephen L. Clagett  
The Honorable Frank M. Kratovil  
The Honorable James W. Dryden  
Ms. Patricia L. Platt  
Mr. Richard W. Clemens  
Ms. Lisa I. Ritter  
Ms. Barbara J. Allison

# **CASE FILINGS IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND — JURISDICTIONS REQUESTING JUDGESHIPS**

Case Type	Anne Arundel County		Baltimore City		Prince George's County		St. Mary's County		Worcester County	
	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2001	FY 2002
Motor Vehicle	101,591	94,117	107,089	136,392	126,888	115,177	20,077	14,058	20,220	22,817
Civil	42,878	43,546	206,493	193,096	164,377	159,163	5,065	5,000	3,759	3,553
Criminal	12,892	13,332	65,959	76,132	21,017	21,764	2,865	2,590	5,264	5,633
Domestic Violence	1,859	1,966	3,474	3,628	3,606	4,067	166	206	149	139
DWI	6,905	6,920	1,601	2,404	4,320	4,097	746	1,120	816	1,606
Peace Orders	626	942	652	1,195	1,057	1,759	109	181	72	100

# Appendix A

**Maryland Circuit Courts  
Judge Actual, Need and Variance  
FY 2002**

Circuit	Judges Actual	Judge Need	Additional Judges Needed
1st	7.00	8.96	1.96
2nd	7.00	8.51	1.51
3rd	21.00	25.42	4.42
4th	7.00	8.06	1.06
5th	18.00	21.58	3.58
6th	24.00	27.89	3.89
7th	32.00	32.71	0.71
8th	30.00	32.80	2.80
Total	146.00	165.92	19.92



# MARYLAND CIRCUIT COURTS WORKLOAD ASSESSMENT MODEL

## Circuit Court Annual Workload Standards\*

Case type	Large County Standards	Small County Standards
<i>Adoptions &amp; Guardianships</i>	808	757
<i>Civil Appeals</i>	775	726
<i>Criminal Appeals</i>	903	846
<i>Criminal Indictments</i>	1,191	1,115
<i>Contracts</i>	459	430
<i>Divorce/Nullity**</i>	2,120	1,986
<i>Domestic Violence**</i>	1,526	1,430
<i>Delinquency</i>	3,148	2,949
<i>Criminal Jury Trial Prayer</i>	3,242	3,037
<i>CINA</i>	1,703	1,596
<i>CINS</i>	1,584	1,484
<i>Other Civil</i>	3,245	3,040
<i>Other Domestic Relations**</i>	2,020	1,892
<i>Other Juvenile</i>	1,388	1,300
<i>Post Conviction</i>	312	292
<i>Paternity and Non-Support**</i>	1,978	1,853
<i>Torts</i>	575	538
<i>FPR and Guardianships</i>	1,098	1,028

\*In cases per judge per year

\*\*Includes Judicial Master's time

Large Courts	Small Courts			
Anne Arundel	Allegany	Charles	Howard	Talbot
Baltimore	Calvert	Dorchester	Kent	Washington
Baltimore City	Caroline	Frederick	Queen Anne's	Wicomico
Montgomery	Carroll	Garrett	Somerset	Worcester
Prince George's	Cecil	Harford	St. Mary's	

# **Judge Need By Court**

## **MARYLAND JUDICIAL CIRCUITS**

### **First Circuit**

<b>County</b>	<b>Case type</b>	<b>FY 2002 Filings</b>	<b>Judge Need</b>	<b>Adjusted Judge Need</b>
<b>Dorchester</b>	<b>Adoptions &amp; Guardianships</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>1.51</b>
	<b>Civil Appeals</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0.06</b>	
	<b>Criminal Appeals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0.04</b>	
	<b>Criminal Indictments</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>0.38</b>	
	<b>Contracts</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0.06</b>	
	<b>Divorce</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>0.13</b>	
	<b>Domestic Violence</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0.04</b>	
	<b>Delinquency</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>0.04</b>	
	<b>Criminal Jury Trial Prayer</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>0.08</b>	
	<b>CINA</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0.01</b>	
	<b>CINS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
	<b>Other Civil</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>0.10</b>	
	<b>Other Domestic</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>0.17</b>	
	<b>Other Juvenile</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
	<b>Post Conviction</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0.03</b>	
	<b>Paternity and Non-Support</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>0.28</b>	
	<b>Torts</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0.04</b>	
	<b>TPR and Guardianships</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0.02</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>1.51</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Somerset	Adoptions & Guardianships	1	0.00	1.16
	Civil Appeals	70	0.10	
	Criminal Appeals	30	0.04	
	Criminal Indictments	149	0.13	
	Contracts	10	0.02	
	Divorce	179	0.09	
	Domestic Violence	86	0.06	
	Delinquency	131	0.04	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	163	0.05	
	CINA	31	0.02	
	CINS	12	0.01	
	Other Civil	209	0.07	
	Other Domestic	291	0.15	
	Other Juvenile	0	0.00	
	Post Conviction	0	0.00	
	Paternity and Non-Support	641	0.35	
	Torts	13	0.02	
	TPR and Guardianships	0	0.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,016</b>	<b>1.16</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Wicomico	Adoptions & Guardianships	29	0.04	3.44
	Civil Appeals	61	0.08	
	Criminal Appeals	80	0.09	
	Criminal Indictments	901	0.81	
	Contracts	24	0.06	
	Divorce	712	0.36	
	Domestic Violence	42	0.03	
	Delinquency	571	0.19	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	1,345	0.44	
	CINA	47	0.03	
	CINS	3	0.00	
	Other Civil	673	0.22	
	Other Domestic	681	0.36	
	Other Juvenile	3	0.00	
	Post Conviction	18	0.06	
	Paternity and Non-Support	904	0.49	
	Torts	89	0.17	
	TPR and Guardianships	2	0.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,185</b>	<b>3.44</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Worcester	Adoptions & Guardianships	18	0.02	2.85
	Civil Appeals	46	0.06	
	Criminal Appeals	55	0.06	
	Criminal Indictments	426	0.38	
	Contracts	82	0.19	
	Divorce	442	0.22	
	Domestic Violence	49	0.03	
	Delinquency	239	0.08	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	906	0.30	
	CINA	10	0.01	
	CINS	0	0.00	
	Other Civil	978	0.32	
	Other Domestic	629	0.33	
	Other Juvenile	2	0.00	
	Post Conviction	0	0.00	
	Paternity and Non-Support	1,185	0.64	
	Torts	103	0.19	
	TPR and Guardianships	0	0.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,170</b>	<b>2.85</b>	

**Second Circuit**

<b>County</b>	<b>Case type</b>	<b>FY 2002 Filings</b>	<b>Judge Need</b>	<b>Adjusted Judge Need</b>
Caroline	Adoptions & Guardianships	5	0.01	<b>1.03</b>
	Civil Appeals	18	0.02	
	Criminal Appeals	21	0.02	
	Criminal Indictments	164	0.15	
	Contracts	10	0.02	
	Divorce	270	0.14	
	Domestic Violence	60	0.04	
	Delinquency	306	0.10	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	120	0.04	
	CINA	29	0.02	
	CINS	0	0.00	
	Other Civil	222	0.07	
	Other Domestic	254	0.13	
	Other Juvenile	3	0.00	
	Post Conviction	7	0.02	
	Paternity and Non-Support	322	0.17	
	Torts	24	0.04	
	TPR and Guardianships	10	0.01	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,845</b>	<b>1.03</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Cecil	Adoptions & Guardianships	44	0.06	4.12
	Civil Appeals	77	0.11	
	Criminal Appeals	64	0.08	
	Criminal Indictments	400	0.36	
	Contracts	29	0.07	
	Divorce	906	0.46	
	Domestic Violence	105	0.07	
	Delinquency	103	0.14	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	1,290	0.42	
	CINA	69	0.04	
	CINS	0	0.00	
	Other Civil	986	0.32	
	Other Domestic	1,451	0.77	
	Other Juvenile	0	0.00	
	Post Conviction	9	0.03	
	Paternity and Non-Support	1,574	0.85	
	Torts	186	0.29	
	TPR and Guardianships	57	0.06	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,620</b>	<b>4.12</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Kent	Adoptions & Guardianships	6	0.01	1.00
	Civil Appeals	25	0.03	
	Criminal Appeals	21	0.02	
	Criminal Indictments	111	0.10	
	Contracts	14	0.03	
	Divorce	170	0.09	
	Domestic Violence	44	0.03	
	Delinquency	80	0.03	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	138	0.05	
	CINA	10	0.01	
	CINS	0	0.00	
	Other Civil	115	0.04	
	Other Domestic	156	0.08	
	Other Juvenile	0	0.00	
	Post Conviction	2	0.01	
	Paternity and Non-Support	204	0.11	
	Torts	14	0.03	
	TPR and Guardianships	1	0.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>0.66</b>	



County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Queen Anne's	Adoptions & Guardianships	6	0.01	1.00
	Civil Appeals	36	0.05	
	Criminal Appeals	27	0.03	
	Criminal Indictments	132	0.12	
	Contracts	22	0.05	
	Divorce	241	0.12	
	Domestic Violence	7	0.00	
	Delinquency	177	0.06	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	88	0.03	
	CINA	23	0.01	
	CINS	6	0.00	
	Other Civil	382	0.13	
	Other Domestic	142	0.08	
	Other Juvenile	0	0.00	
	Post Conviction	10	0.03	
	Paternity and Non-Support	186	0.10	
	Torts	22	0.04	
	TPR and Guardianships	8	0.01	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>0.88</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Talbot	Adoptions & Guardianships	8	0.01	1.37
	Civil Appeals	31	0.04	
	Criminal Appeals	25	0.03	
	Criminal Indictments	274	0.25	
	Contracts	26	0.06	
	Divorce	352	0.18	
	Domestic Violence	32	0.02	
	Delinquency	423	0.14	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	142	0.05	
	CINA	15	0.01	
	CINS	2	0.00	
	Other Civil	226	0.07	
	Other Domestic	341	0.18	
	Other Juvenile	2	0.00	
	Post Conviction	7	0.02	
	Paternity and Non-Support	358	0.19	
	Torts	49	0.09	
	TPR and Guardianships	16	0.02	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,329</b>	<b>1.37</b>	

**Thlrđ Circuit**

<b>County</b>	<b>Case type</b>	<b>FY 2002 Filings</b>	<b>Judge Need</b>	<b>Adjusted Judge Need</b>
<b>Baltimore</b>	<b>Adoptions &amp; Guardianships</b>	317	0.39	<b>19.38</b>
	<b>Civil Appeals</b>	839	1.08	
	<b>Criminal Appeals</b>	1,281	1.42	
	<b>Criminal Indictments</b>	4,049	3.40	
	<b>Contracts</b>	975	2.12	
	<b>Divorce</b>	4,860	2.29	
	<b>Domestic Violence</b>	783	0.51	
	<b>Delinquency</b>	3,947	1.25	
	<b>Criminal Jury Trial Prayer</b>	1,466	0.45	
	<b>CINA</b>	527	0.31	
	<b>CINS</b>	15	0.01	
	<b>Other Civil</b>	5,509	1.70	
	<b>Other Domestic</b>	2,740	1.36	
	<b>Other Juvenile</b>	53	0.04	
	<b>Post Conviction</b>	1	0.00	
	<b>Paternity and Non-Support</b>	1,033	0.52	
	<b>Torts</b>	1,106	2.45	
	<b>TPR and Guardianships</b>	73	0.07	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>29,874</b>	<b>19.38</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Hartford	Adoptions & Guardianships	93	0.12	<b>6.04</b>
	Civil Appeals	210	0.29	
	Criminal Appeals	182	0.22	
	Criminal Indictments	755	0.68	
	Contracts	89	0.21	
	Divorce	1,680	0.85	
	Domestic Violence	375	0.26	
	Delinquency	663	0.22	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	1,508	0.50	
	CINA	186	0.12	
	CINS	0	0.00	
	Other Civil	1,427	0.47	
	Other Domestic	1,614	0.85	
	Other Juvenile	10	0.01	
	Post Conviction	23	0.08	
	Paternity and Non-Support	1,405	0.76	
	Torts	207	0.38	
	TPR and Guardianships	30	0.03	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,457</b>	<b>6.04</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Washington	Adoptions & Guardianships	41	0.05	5.11
	Civil Appeals	190	0.26	
	Criminal Appeals	144	0.17	
	Criminal Indictments	984	0.88	
	Contracts	71	0.17	
	Divorce	1,119	0.56	
	Domestic Violence	32	0.02	
	Delinquency	686	0.23	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	1,576	0.52	
	CINA	86	0.05	
	CINS	3	0.00	
	Other Civil	744	0.24	
	Other Domestic	1,805	0.95	
	Other Juvenile	10	0.01	
	Post Conviction	10	0.03	
	Paternity and Non-Support	1,271	0.69	
	Torts	117	0.22	
	TPR and Guardianships	34	0.03	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,926</b>	<b>5.11</b>	

**Fourth Circuit**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Allegany	Adoptions & Guardianships	26	0.03	1.95
	Civil Appeals	195	0.27	
	Criminal Appeals	53	0.06	
	Criminal Indictments	206	0.18	
	Contracts	12	0.03	
	Divorce	558	0.28	
	Domestic Violence	20	0.01	
	Delinquency	405	0.14	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	339	0.11	
	CINA	39	0.02	
	CINS	15	0.01	
	Other Civil	705	0.23	
	Other Domestic	482	0.25	
	Other Juvenile	6	0.00	
	Post Conviction	0	0.00	
	Paternity and Non-Support	344	0.19	
	Torts	64	0.12	
	TPR and Guardianships	1	0.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,470</b>	<b>1.95</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Garrett	Adoptions & Guardianships	11	0.01	1.00
	Civil Appeals	18	0.02	
	Criminal Appeals	19	0.02	
	Criminal Indictments	131	0.12	
	Contracts	13	0.03	
	Divorce	178	0.09	
	Domestic Violence	26	0.02	
	Delinquency	89	0.03	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	33	0.01	
	CINA	38	0.02	
	CINS	11	0.01	
	Other Civil	170	0.06	
	Other Domestic	212	0.11	
	Other Juvenile	21	0.02	
	Post Conviction	3	0.01	
	Paternity and Non-Support	85	0.05	
	Torts	31	0.06	
	TPR and Guardianships	30	0.03	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>0.72</b>	

**Fifth Circuit**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Anne Arundel	Adoptions & Guardianships	405	0.50	12.82
	Civil Appeals	420	0.54	
	Criminal Appeals	811	0.90	
	Criminal Indictments	4,144	3.73	
	Contracts	465	1.01	
	Divorce	3,364	1.59	
	Domestic Violence	359	0.24	
	Delinquency	2,519	0.80	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	890	0.27	
	CINA	107	0.06	
	CINS	0	0.00	
	Other Civil	5,070	1.56	
	Other Domestic	713	0.35	
	Other Juvenile	10	0.01	
	Post Conviction	11	0.04	
	Paternity and Non-Support	595	0.30	
	Torts	521	0.91	
	TPR and Guardianships	5	0.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20,712</b>	<b>12.82</b>	



County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Carroll	Adoptions & Guardianships	128	0.17	3.76
	Civil Appeals	126	0.17	
	Criminal Appeals	155	0.18	
	Criminal Indictments	747	0.67	
	Contracts	58	0.13	
	Divorce	898	0.45	
	Domestic Violence	404	0.28	
	Delinquency	1,090	0.37	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	1,190	0.39	
	CINA	37	0.02	
	CINS	14	0.01	
	Other Civil	967	0.32	
	Other Domestic	591	0.31	
	Other Juvenile	27	0.02	
	Post Conviction	1	0.00	
	Paternity and Non-Support	128	0.07	
	Torts	94	0.17	
	TPR and Guardianships	0	0.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,655</b>	<b>3.76</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Howard	Adoptions & Guardianships	80	0.11	<b>5.01</b>
	Civil Appeals	220	0.30	
	Criminal Appeals	186	0.22	
	Criminal Indictments	622	0.56	
	Contracts	252	0.59	
	Divorce	1,305	0.66	
	Domestic Violence	215	0.15	
	Delinquency	1,054	0.36	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	967	0.32	
	CINA	242	0.15	
	CINS	3	0.00	
	Other Civil	1,294	0.43	
	Other Domestic	701	0.37	
	Other Juvenile	44	0.03	
	Post Conviction	0	0.00	
	Paternity and Non-Support	524	0.28	
	Torts	254	0.47	
	TPR and Guardianships	14	0.01	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,977</b>	<b>5.01</b>	

**Sixth Circuit**

<b>County</b>	<b>Case type</b>	<b>FY 2002 Filings</b>	<b>Judge Need</b>	<b>Adjusted Judge Need</b>
Frederick	Adoptions & Guardianships	95	0.13	<b>4.96</b>
	Civil Appeals	163	0.22	
	Criminal Appeals	208	0.25	
	Criminal Indictments	543	0.49	
	Contracts	103	0.24	
	Divorce	1,385	0.70	
	Domestic Violence	46	0.03	
	Delinquency	2,019	0.68	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	1,586	0.52	
	CINA	153	0.10	
	CINS	21	0.01	
	Other Civil	1,038	0.34	
	Other Domestic	1,055	0.56	
	Other Juvenile	18	0.01	
	Post Conviction	2	0.01	
	Paternity and Non-Support	632	0.34	
	Torts	168	0.31	
	IPR and Guardianships	17	0.02	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,252</b>	<b>4.96</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Montgomery	Adoptions & Guardianships	1,893	2.34	22.93
	Civil Appeals	807	1.04	
	Criminal Appeals	987	1.09	
	Criminal Indictments	2,992	2.51	
	Contracts	1,612	3.51	
	Divorce	5,415	2.56	
	Domestic Violence	765	0.50	
	Delinquency	3,713	1.18	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	2,743	0.85	
	CINA	191	0.11	
	CINS	2	0.00	
	Other Civil	10,206	3.15	
	Other Domestic	959	0.47	
	Other Juvenile	36	0.03	
	Post Conviction	0	0.00	
	Paternity and Non-Support	2,094	1.06	
	Torts	1,110	2.45	
	TPR and Guardianships	73	0.07	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35,921</b>	<b>22.93</b>	

**Seventh Circuit**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Calvert	Adoptions & Guardianships	49	0.06	2.60
	Civil Appeals	50	0.07	
	Criminal Appeals	26	0.03	
	Criminal Indictments	280	0.25	
	Contracts	19	0.04	
	Divorce	781	0.39	
	Domestic Violence	130	0.09	
	Delinquency	603	0.20	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	249	0.08	
	CINA	87	0.05	
	CINS	3	0.00	
	Other Civil	611	0.21	
	Other Domestic	773	0.41	
	Other Juvenile	15	0.01	
	Post Conviction	0	0.00	
	Paternity and Non-Support	992	0.54	
	Torts	78	0.14	
	TPR and Guardianships	0	0.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,779</b>	<b>2.60</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Charles	Adoptions & Guardianships	47	0.06	4.57
	Civil Appeals	96	0.13	
	Criminal Appeals	58	0.07	
	Criminal Indictments	730	0.65	
	Contracts	70	0.16	
	Divorce	1,040	0.52	
	Domestic Violence	404	0.28	
	Delinquency	990	0.34	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	887	0.29	
	CINA	24	0.02	
	CINS	0	0.00	
	Other Civil	1,165	0.38	
	Other Domestic	981	0.52	
	Other Juvenile	7	0.01	
	Post Conviction	27	0.09	
	Paternity and Non-Support	1,297	0.70	
	Torts	176	0.33	
	TPR and Guardianships	11	0.01	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,010</b>	<b>4.57</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Prince George's	Adoptions & Guardianships	127	0.16	<b>23.62</b>
	Civil Appeals	588	0.76	
	Criminal Appeals	282	0.31	
	Criminal Indictments	1,052	3.40	
	Contracts	887	1.93	
	Divorce	6,260	2.95	
	Domestic Violence	751	0.49	
	Delinquency	4,115	1.31	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	5,032	1.55	
	CINA	315	0.20	
	CINS	3	0.00	
	Other Civil	8,611	2.65	
	Other Domestic	3,311	1.64	
	Other Juvenile	11	0.03	
	Post Conviction	274	0.88	
	Paternity and Non-Support	3,993	2.02	
	Torts	1,885	3.28	
	TPR and Guardianships	58	0.05	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>40,615</b>	<b>23.62</b>	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
St. Mary's	Adoptions & Guardianships	21	0.03	<b>1.92</b>
	Civil Appeals	52	0.07	
	Criminal Appeals	25	0.03	
	Criminal Indictments	300	0.27	
	Contracts	28	0.07	
	Divorce	580	0.29	
	Domestic Violence	162	0.11	
	Delinquency	318	0.12	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	367	0.12	
	CINA	19	0.01	
	CINS	0	0.00	
	Other Civil	515	0.18	
	Other Domestic	460	0.24	
	Other Juvenile	3	0.00	
	Post Conviction	0	0.00	
	Paternity and Non-Support	490	0.26	
	Torts	58	0.11	
	EPR and Guardianships	2	0.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>1.92</b>	



**Eighth Circuit**

County	Case type	FY 2001 Filings	Judge Need	Adjusted Judge Need
Baltimore City	Adoptions & Guardianships	263	0.33	<b>32.80</b>
	Civil Appeals	1,169	1.51	
	Criminal Appeals	471	0.52	
	Criminal Indictments	7,104	5.97	
	Contracts	525	1.14	
	Divorce	3,154	1.49	
	Domestic Violence	501	0.33	
	Delinquency	6,215	1.97	
	Criminal Jury Trial Prayer	5,350	1.65	
	CINA	2,640	1.55	
	CINS	63	0.04	
	Other Civil	12,584	3.88	
	Other Domestic	1,863	0.92	
	Other Juvenile	37	0.03	
	Post Conviction	67	0.21	
	Paternity and Non-Support	6,801	3.44	
	Forts	1,064	7.07	
	EPR and Guardianships	828	0.75	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>53,696</b>	<b>32.80</b>	

The criminal filings are based on the number of defendants.

## Appendix B

**Maryland District Court**  
**Judge Actual, Need and Variance**  
**FY 2002**

District	Judgeships Actual	Judgeship Need	Additional Judgeships Needed
1st	26.00	27.81	1.81
2nd	5.00	7.01	2.01
3rd	6.00	6.02	0.00
4th	4.00	5.84	1.84
5th	13.00	16.39	3.39
6th	11.00	11.51	0.51
7th	8.00	8.93	0.93
8th	13.00	16.19	3.19
9th	4.00	3.51	0.00
10th	7.00	6.44	0.00
11th	5.00	6.41	1.41
12th	3.00	2.58	0.00
Total	105.00	118.64	15.08

**WORKLOAD ASSESSMENT MODEL  
FOR THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**

**District Court Annual Workload Standards\***

<b>Case type</b>	<b>Large District Standards</b>	<b>Small District Standards</b>
<i>Criminal</i>	5,281	4,822
<i>Civil</i>	8,865	8,095
<i>Drunk Driving</i>	4,253	3,884
<i>Domestic Violence</i>	2,580	2,356
<i>Landlord Tenant</i>	38,059	34,752
<i>Routine Traffic</i>	98,157	89,627
<i>Serious Traffic</i>	17,615	16,084
<i>Peace Order</i>	3,396	3,101

\*In cases per judge per year

## Judgeship Need by County

### DISTRICT COURT JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

#### First District

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Baltimore City	Criminal	76,132	14.42	<b>27.81</b>
	Civil	47,509	5.36	
	DUI	2,404	0.57	
	Domestic Violence	3,628	1.41	
	Landlord Tenant	142,279	3.74	
	Routine Traffic	120,867	1.23	
	Serious Traffic	13,121	0.74	
	Peace Order	1,195	0.35	
	Total	407,135	27.81	

**Second District**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Dorchester	Criminal	1,390	0.29	1.00
	Civil	1,445	0.18	
	DUI	379	0.10	
	Domestic Violence	124	0.05	
	Landlord Tenant	1,625	0.05	
	Routine Traffic	9,427	0.11	
	Serious Traffic	579	0.04	
	Peace Order	61	0.02	
	Total	15,030	0.82	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Somerset	Criminal	935	0.19	<b>1.00</b>
	Civil	1,428	0.18	
	DUI	317	0.08	
	Domestic Violence	50	0.02	
	Landlord Tenant	934	0.03	
	Routine Traffic	11,147	0.12	
	Serious Traffic	486	0.03	
	Peace Order	61	0.02	
	Total	15,358	0.67	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Wicomico	Criminal	3,097	0.64	<b>2.67</b>
	Civil	5,944	0.73	
	DUI	1,301	0.34	
	Domestic Violence	559	0.24	
	Landlord Tenant	8,488	0.24	
	Routine Traffic	25,272	0.28	
	Serious Traffic	1,972	0.12	
	Peace Order	213	0.07	
	Total	46,846	2.67	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Worcester	Criminal	5,633	1.17	<b>2.34</b>
	Civil	2,470	0.31	
	DUI	1,606	0.41	
	Domestic Violence	139	0.06	
	Landlord Tenant	861	0.02	
	Routine Traffic	19,217	0.21	
	Serious Traffic	1,994	0.12	
	Peace Order	100	0.03	
	Total	32,020	2.34	



### Third District

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Caroline	Criminal	1,146	0.24	<b>1.00</b>
	Civil	1,095	0.14	
	DUI	383	0.10	
	Domestic Violence	107	0.05	
	Landlord Tenant	751	0.02	
	Routine Traffic	6,317	0.07	
	Serious Traffic	460	0.03	
	Peace Order	20	0.01	
	Total	10,279	0.64	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Cecil	Criminal	2,832	0.59	<b>2.02</b>
	Civil	2,794	0.35	
	DUI	1,348	0.35	
	Domestic Violence	289	0.12	
	Landlord Tenant	3,517	0.10	
	Routine Traffic	31,387	0.35	
	Serious Traffic	1,926	0.12	
	Peace Order	156	0.05	
	Total	44,249	2.02	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Kent	Criminal	563	0.12	1.00
	Civil	1,034	0.13	
	DUI	244	0.06	
	Domestic Violence	23	0.01	
	Landlord Tenant	511	0.01	
	Routine Traffic	5,607	0.06	
	Serious Traffic	357	0.02	
	Peace Order	36	0.01	
	Total	8,375	0.43	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Queen Anne's	Criminal	1,022	0.21	1.00
	Civil	1,110	0.14	
	DUI	663	0.17	
	Domestic Violence	124	0.05	
	Landlord Tenant	383	0.01	
	Routine Traffic	13,253	0.15	
	Serious Traffic	939	0.06	
	Peace Order	64	0.02	
	Total	17,558	0.81	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Talbot	Criminal	1,174	0.24	1.00
	Civil	1,197	0.15	
	DUI	652	0.17	
	Domestic Violence	84	0.04	
	Landlord Tenant	691	0.02	
	Routine Traffic	12,172	0.14	
	Serious Traffic	941	0.06	
	Peace Order	41	0.01	
	Total	16,952	0.82	

**Fourth District**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Calvert	Criminal	2,517	0.52	<b>1.68</b>
	Civil	2,455	0.30	
	DUI	1,794	0.46	
	Domestic Violence	215	0.09	
	Landlord Tenant	1,082	0.03	
	Routine Traffic	13,840	0.15	
	Serious Traffic	1,270	0.08	
	Peace Order	126	0.04	
	Total	23,299	1.68	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Charles	Criminal	3,948	0.82	<b>2.66</b>
	Civil	4,204	0.52	
	DUI	2,334	0.60	
	Domestic Violence	324	0.14	
	Landlord Tenant	2,631	0.08	
	Routine Traffic	23,929	0.27	
	Serious Traffic	2,367	0.15	
	Peace Order	277	0.09	
	Total	40,014	2.66	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Saint Mary's	Criminal	2,590	0.54	<b>1.50</b>
	Civil	1,920	0.24	
	DUI	1,120	0.29	
	Domestic Violence	206	0.09	
	Landlord Tenant	2,914	0.08	
	Routine Traffic	11,690	0.13	
	Serious Traffic	1,248	0.08	
	Peace Order	181	0.06	
	Total	21,869	1.50	

**Fifth District**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Prince George's	Criminal	21,764	4.12	<b>16.39</b>
	Civil	38,504	4.34	
	DUI	4,097	0.96	
	Domestic Violence	4,067	1.58	
	Landlord Tenant	118,033	3.10	
	Routine Traffic	97,409	0.99	
	Serious Traffic	13,671	0.78	
	Peace Order	1,759	0.52	
	Total	299,304	16.39	

**Sixth District**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Montgomery	Criminal	12,434	2.35	<b>11.51</b>
	Civil	27,589	3.11	
	DUI	9,596	2.26	
	Domestic Violence	1,321	0.51	
	Landlord Tenant	34,789	0.91	
	Routine Traffic	150,117	1.53	
	Serious Traffic	9,167	0.52	
	Peace Order	1,053	0.31	
	Total	246,066	11.51	

**Seventh District**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Anne Arundel	Criminal	13,332	2.52	<b>8.93</b>
	Civil	16,176	1.82	
	DUI	6,920	1.63	
	Domestic Violence	1,966	0.76	
	Landlord Tenant	25,770	0.68	
	Routine Traffic	79,762	0.81	
	Serious Traffic	7,435	0.42	
	Peace Order	942	0.28	
	Total	152,303	8.93	

**Eighth District**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Baltimore	Criminal	18,637	3.53	<b>16.19</b>
	Civil	38,336	4.32	
	DUI	5,635	1.32	
	Domestic Violence	3,572	1.38	
	Landlord Tenant	116,239	3.05	
	Routine Traffic	133,928	1.36	
	Serious Traffic	12,785	0.73	
	Peace Order	1,650	0.49	
	Total	330,782	16.19	

**Ninth District**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Harford	Criminal	4,318	0.90	<b>3.51</b>
	Civil	6,517	0.81	
	DUI	2,523	0.65	
	Domestic Violence	531	0.23	
	Landlord Tenant	10,743	0.31	
	Routine Traffic	34,033	0.38	
	Serious Traffic	2,156	0.13	
	Peace Order	354	0.11	
	Total	61,175	3.51	



**Tenth District**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Carroll	Criminal	3,384	0.70	<b>2.19</b>
	Civil	3,727	0.46	
	DUI	1,702	0.44	
	Domestic Violence	269	0.11	
	Landlord Tenant	2,007	0.06	
	Routine Traffic	24,429	0.27	
	Serious Traffic	1,323	0.08	
	Peace Order	190	0.06	
	Total	37,031	2.19	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Howard	Criminal	4,168	0.86	<b>4.25</b>
	Civil	5,886	0.73	
	DUI	4,630	1.19	
	Domestic Violence	528	0.22	
	Landlord Tenant	11,330	0.33	
	Routine Traffic	56,134	0.63	
	Serious Traffic	2,893	0.18	
	Peace Order	343	0.11	
	Total	85,912	4.25	

**Eleventh District**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Frederick	Criminal	4,070	0.84	<b>3.43</b>
	Civil	5,239	0.65	
	DUI	3,373	0.87	
	Domestic Violence	442	0.19	
	Landlord Tenant	5,491	0.16	
	Routine Traffic	39,723	0.44	
	Serious Traffic	2,297	0.14	
	Peace Order	416	0.13	
	Total	61,051	3.43	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Washington	Criminal	4,198	0.87	<b>2.98</b>
	Civil	6,476	0.80	
	DUI	1,475	0.38	
	Domestic Violence	721	0.31	
	Landlord Tenant	6,442	0.19	
	Routine Traffic	20,753	0.23	
	Serious Traffic	1,344	0.08	
	Peace Order	385	0.12	
	Total	41,794	2.98	

**Twelfth District**

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Allegany	Criminal	3,495	0.72	<b>1.58</b>
	Civil	2,268	0.28	
	DUI	807	0.21	
	Domestic Violence	301	0.13	
	Landlord Tenant	846	0.02	
	Routine Traffic	10,838	0.12	
	Serious Traffic	936	0.06	
	Peace Order	120	0.04	
	Total	19,611	1.58	

County	Case type	FY 2002 Filings	Judgeship Need	Adjusted Judgeship Need
Garrett	Criminal	1,222	0.25	<b>1.00</b>
	Civil	671	0.08	
	DUI	691	0.18	
	Domestic Violence	119	0.05	
	Landlord Tenant	85	0.00	
	Routine Traffic	15,167	0.17	
	Serious Traffic	454	0.03	
	Peace Order	45	0.01	
	Total	18,454	0.78	

## Appendix C



# The Circuit Court for Somerset County

FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MARYLAND

DANIEL M. LONG  
CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE  
JUDGE

PO BOX 279

PRINCESS ANNE, MARYLAND 21853-0279

TELEPHONE (410) 651-1630  
FAX (410) 651-1878

October 23, 2002

Mr. Frank Broccolina,  
State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judicial Center  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: *Statistical Needs Analysis*

Dear Frank:

Pursuant to the request of Chief Judge Bell in his Memorandum of October 18, 2002, the following are my thoughts not only in the capacity of County Administrative Judge for Somerset County, but also as Administrative Judge of the First Judicial Circuit.

I am not in a position to question or comment on the data supplied in the Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships in the Circuit Courts, however, I also am not persuaded there is a need for an additional judge in Somerset County. We have seen our criminal filings decline over the last several years. While we have experienced an increase in domestic filings, we now have the luxury of three full-time Masters within the Circuit assisting the Courts with divorce, visitation, custody, and child support issues. In addition to those duties, the Masters also conduct scheduling and settlement conferences.

In my capacity as Administrative Judge of the First Judicial Circuit, I am renewing my request for an additional judge to be based in Worcester County but to sit throughout the Circuit. Worcester, as you may know, is one of the fastest growing counties in Maryland as is demonstrated by the number of increased court filings. The data also reflects the need for additional judicial resources in Dorchester and Wicomico Counties. At the present time, we are, with the approval of Chief Judge Bell, using retired Judge Alfred T. Truitt, Jr. at least three days per month to hear cases and do chambers work in Dorchester County. We also utilize the services of retired judges in the three other counties of the Circuit to assist during periods of leave and on other occasions when our judges may be unavailable.

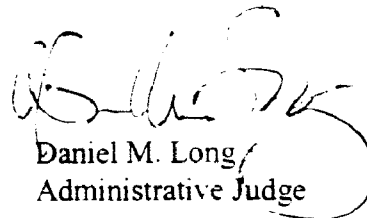
Frank Broccolina  
Pge 2  
October 23, 2002

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Although I have requested an additional judge for the Circuit, I am mindful of Maryland's precarious fiscal condition. During the last two years, I believe we have been able to justify the need for additional judicial resources. Nevertheless, should the decision be made not to request more judges during the 2003 General Assembly Session, our Judges and Masters will respect that decision. If not this year, however, sometime in the near future, we will need at least one other judge for the Circuit if we are to provide the same level of service to which our citizens are entitled and to which they have come to expect.

As always, thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you need any other information.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel M. Long  
Administrative Judge

cc: Hon. Robert M. Bell  
Hon. Dale R. Cathell  
Hon. Theodore R. Eschenburg  
Hon. Donald F. Johnson  
Hon. D. William Simpson  
D. Lynn Cain, Court Administrator



The Circuit Court for Worcester County  
First Judicial Circuit of Maryland

THEODORE R. ESCHENBURG  
COURT HOUSE - ROOM 228  
ONE W MARKET STREET  
SNOW HILL, MARYLAND 21863  
PHONE (410) 632-0700

October 23, 2002

CHIEF JUDGE  
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
WORCESTER COUNTY

Mr. Frank Broccolina  
State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judicial Center  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Annual Analysis for Judgeship Needs**

*Frank*  
Dear Mr. ~~Broccolina~~:

It has now been twenty-two (22) years since Worcester County has received an additional judge in the Circuit Court. As you know, the Census 2000 figures show Worcester County, not unexpectedly, had a population increase of 32.9 percent from 1990 to 2000. Currently, Worcester County is experiencing a "boom" in population growth. I fully expect this to continue.

According to the Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships in the Circuit Court, Worcester's case load rose by thirty-three percent over the last five years. This should come as no surprise when Worcester's population growth is considered.

As you are aware, both Judge Bell and the Legislature have recognized for three years Worcester's "need" for an additional judgeship. The only thing that has changed is that this recognized need has become even more urgent.

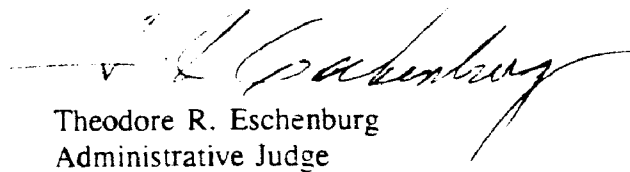
The judge we are asking for will, in fact, be a true "circuit" judge, as the additional judge will also preside in the other counties of the First Judicial Circuit on a weekly basis.

Lastly, we do have the space for the additional judge. As I write this letter, the courthouse is being renovated and will have not one, but two additional courtrooms.

I sincerely hope that this will be the year when Worcester County will receive the recognized needed third judge. I know Judge Bell and yourself will do your best. I remain always available to either of you or any members of the Legislature, should anyone wish to discuss this matter with me further.

For your convenience, I am enclosing my letters to you regarding this subject for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Eschenburg', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Theodore R. Eschenburg  
Administrative Judge

TRE/cj

Enclosures

cc: Chief Judge Robert M. Bell  
The Honorable Daniel M. Long





The Circuit Court for Worcester County  
First Judicial Circuit of Maryland

August 23, 2001

THEODORE R. ESCHENBURG  
COURT HOUSE - ROOM 228  
ONE W. MARKET STREET  
SNOW HILL, MARYLAND 21863  
PHONE (410) 632-0700

CHIEF JUDGE  
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
WORCESTER COUNTY

Mr. Frank Broccolina  
State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judicial Center  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Annual Analysis for Judgeship Needs**

Dear Frank:

As you are aware, Judge Bell has asked the Legislature for an additional Circuit Court Judge for the last two years for Worcester County. Unfortunately, the Legislature has not approved the additional judgeship. It is my belief that Worcester not getting the additional judge, who will be primarily a family court judge, and who will preside in all four counties of the First Judicial Circuit, had little to do with "need".

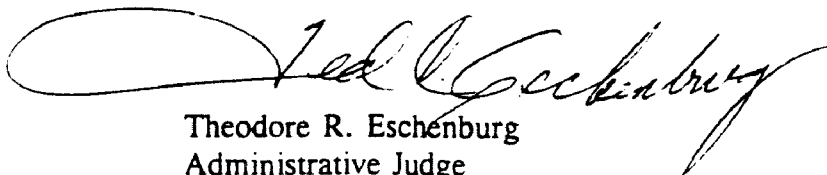
As you know, it has now been twenty-one (21) years since Worcester County received an additional judge in the Circuit Court. As the Census 2000 figures show, Worcester County, not unexpectedly, has had a population increase of 32.9 percent over the last ten (10) years. This is the second highest population increase in the State of Maryland and the largest by far on the entire Eastern Shore. These figures alone are strong evidence of the need for this additional judgeship. This is particularly true when one considers that this judge will not only be presiding in Worcester County, but also the other three (3) counties of the First Judicial Circuit, i.e. Wicomico, Dorchester and Somerset.

Additionally, in anticipation of the third judge, the County Commissioners of Worcester County have under construction a new county office building. This building is expected to be completed in December of this year. At such time, all county departments will be moving out of the courthouse, at which time renovations will immediately begin on the existing courthouse. Two additional courtrooms, one a jury courtroom, will be added. The fourth courtroom will be used by visiting judges when conducting trials, settlement conferences, mediation and the like; by the Orphans Court when conducting hearings, and at times by the Master.

I am attaching hereto copies of my last two annual requests for a third judge. I sincerely hope the Legislature will see the need for this additional judge. The tremendous growth of Worcester County over the last ten (10) years is expected to continue. This will make the need for this additional judge even more urgent than it is today.

Please be assured that I remain available to speak to anyone concerning this need, including, but not limited to, any members of the Legislature who may desire to speak with me concerning this most important issue.

Very truly yours,

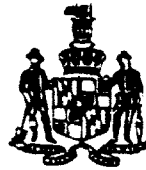
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ted Eschenburg", with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

Theodore R. Eschenburg  
Administrative Judge

TRE/cj

Enclosures

cc: Chief Judge Robert M. Bell  
The Honorable Daniel M. Long



The Circuit Court for Worcester County  
First Judicial Circuit of Maryland

July 24, 2000

THEODORE R. ESCHENBURG  
COURT HOUSE - ROOM 228  
ONE N. MARKET STREET  
SNOW HILL, MARYLAND 21863  
PHONE (410) 632-0700

CHIEF JUDGE  
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
WORCESTER COUNTY

Mr. Frank Broccolina  
State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judicial Center  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Annual Analysis for Judgeship Needs

Dear Frank:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter to me under date of July 18, 2000 concerning Worcester County's need for additional judgeships.

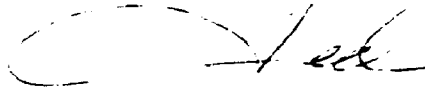
As you are aware, Judge Bell did ask for an additional judgeship for Worcester County last year but the Legislature did not approve it. Unfortunately, the Legislature's failure to approve this judgeship had nothing to do with the need for this additional judge.

I am attaching hereto and, by doing so, am making a part hereto, my letter to you under date of August 31, 1999 regarding the same subject. Nothing has changed since my letter of last year, except that the need has become more critical and the start date of the new county office building is October of this year instead of the first of this year as was originally expected. This will not cause an unworkable problem if Worcester County gets the additional judgeship this year.

Finally, I am also enclosing a letter from Gerald T. Mason, Chief Administrative Officer for Worcester County, which simply confirms that even during construction of the new county office building, Worcester County will have the space to accommodate a new judge.

Frank, please feel free to contact me should there be any questions regarding this most important issue. I will remain available to you and anyone else who may wish to discuss this matter with me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Eschenburg', written over a horizontal line.

Theodore R. Eschenburg  
Administrative Judge

TRE:cj

cc: Chief Judge Robert M. Bell  
The Honorable Daniel M. Long

Enclosure



The Circuit Court for Worcester County

First Judicial Circuit of Maryland  
August 31, 1999

THEODORE R. ESCHENBURG  
COURT HOUSE - ROOM 228  
ONE W. MARKET STREET  
SNOW HILL, MARYLAND 21863  
PHONE (410) 632-0700

CHIEF JUDGE  
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
WORCESTER COUNTY

Mr. Frank Broccolina  
Deputy State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building  
361 Rowe Boulevard  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Annual Analysis for Judgeship Needs

Dear Frank:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter to me under date of August 17, 1999 concerning the need for additional judgeships.

As the "Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships in the Circuit Courts - 1999 Session (Fiscal Year 2000)" states: "Worcester County is one of the fastest growing areas on the Eastern Shore. The population in Worcester County is projected to reach 43,900 by July 1, 1999, an increase of more than 42 percent since 1980." By coincidence, it was in 1980, almost twenty (20) years ago that Worcester County got its second Circuit Court Judge. During this period of time, Worcester County has experienced unprecedented growth and, in my opinion, this growth is just beginning.

Worcester County, as may be expected, is the number one retirement choice for many people in all other parts of the State, particularly the larger counties of Baltimore County, Prince George's County, Anne Arundel County, Montgomery County and of Baltimore City. What the above-mentioned statistics do not take into account is that Ocean City, for at least three (3) months out of the year, has the second largest population of any city in the State of Maryland. Only Baltimore City exceeds Ocean City's population of 300,000 people during the summer months.

The above-mentioned statistics further state: "Over the last five years, total filings in Worcester County have steadily increased to its current level of 3,890 filings. That figure represents an increase of nearly 26 percent over the Fiscal Year 1994 level of 3,090 filings. Contributing to the overall increase were increases in civil and criminal case filings. There were 2,030 civil cases filed during Fiscal Year 1996, an increase of 18.4 percent over the Fiscal Year 1994 level of 1,715 filings.

Even more significant was the 44.6 percent increase in criminal case filings from 1,070 in Fiscal Year 1994 to 1,547 in Fiscal Year 1998. During the same period, indictment and information filings increased 39.2 percent, while jury trial prayers rose 48 percent. During Fiscal Year 1998, Worcester County ranked eighth in filings per judge (1,945 filings) and eleventh in dispositions per judge (1,754 dispositions). There are currently two judges assigned to Worcester County who are assisted by a part-time master." These figures simply demonstrate the results of the ever-increasing population in Worcester County.

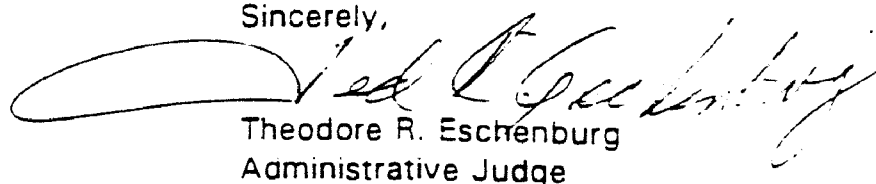
The State's statistics further demonstrate that of the four counties in the First Judicial Circuit, Worcester County has the greatest need for an additional judge, with the statistics showing a need of 3.3 judges. It is therefore requested that Worcester County receive a "resident" judge.

As you may know, the Worcester County Commissioners will start construction of a new County Office Building the first of the year, 2000. This means that the County Commissioners, Treasurer's Office, and Planning and Zoning Office will be vacating the courthouse. This would leave ample room for an additional courtroom, chambers, secretary's room, jury room, court reporter's room, witness rooms and other necessary and supporting rooms. Should the new County Office Building not be completed by the time Worcester County hopefully receives the additional judge, the grand jury room and County Commissioners room could be used as temporary courtrooms. Indeed, when maintenance has been required in our two existing courtrooms, these rooms have been used as courtrooms in the past.

Frank, we need an additional judge now. We have been asking for one for two years. We have the space to accommodate a new judge. I sincerely hope this letter will not simply be considered "routine." If we didn't need a third judge I would not ask for one. The fact is we do, and each year it is delayed the need is becoming more critical. Any effort you, Judge Bell, Judge Long or others may make to secure this new position would be most gratefully appreciated. I remain available to yourself, Judge Bell, Judge Long or anyone else to discuss this matter further.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation in this matter, I remain,

Sincerely,



Theodore R. Eschenburg  
Administrative Judge

TRE/cj

cc: Chief Judge Robert M. Bell  
The Honorable Daniel M. Long



**The Second Judicial Circuit of Maryland**  
CIRCUIT COURT FOR TALBOT COUNTY

WILLIAM S. HORNE  
CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

October 28, 2002

COURT HOUSE  
11 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET  
P.O. BOX 2160  
PACON, MARYLAND 2160  
410-822-4444

Mr. Frank Broccolina  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judicial Center  
580 Taylor Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Broccolina:

Pursuant to your request, I have reviewed the Statistical Needs Analysis for new judgeships in the Circuit Courts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit.

From the statistics given, it appears that Cecil County is in great need of a fourth judge. Their total filings have increased over 60% from 1998. It should be noted that the Cecil County Administrative judge and Cecil County officials have begun conversations on making available additional space in the Courthouse for the Circuit Court. It is anticipated that an addition to the Courthouse will be completed in approximately two years.

Total filings have increased more than 20% in Talbot County, which shows a judge need of 1.37 judges (somehow rounded to 1.3 on the chart entitled "Judgeship Need in the Circuit Courts Fiscal Year 2004"). I believe that Talbot County will, after Cecil County, be the next county in the Second Circuit to require an additional judge. It is noteworthy that Talbot County is currently remodeling a wing of its courthouse. This will create a second courtroom and provide space for a second Circuit Court judge.

While I believe the situation in Cecil County deserves immediate attention, I would anticipate that Talbot County should be considered for an additional judge the following year.

It is not felt that Caroline, Queen Anne or Kent Counties require an additional judge at this time. It is noted, however, that Caroline County is currently in the process of renovating the Courthouse which will result in adequate space for a second judge.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. Horne'.

William S. Horne

WSH:ld

cc: County Administrative Judges of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit



## The Circuit Court for Baltimore County

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MARYLAND

CHAMBERS OF  
JOHN GRASON TURNBULL, II  
CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE AND  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

COUNTY COURTS BUILDING  
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204  
410-887-2647

October 29, 2002

Mr. Frank Broccolina  
State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Court  
580 Taylor Ave.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

Re: Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships  
in the Circuit Courts – 2003 Session (Fiscal  
Year 2004)

Dear Frank:

This is in response to the memorandum circulated by Chief Judge Bell dated October 18, 2002, regarding the need for additional judgeships in the Circuit Courts in Fiscal Year 2004. I concur with the findings of the report prepared by your office on the need for additional judges in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. I also recognize that because of the large deficit looming before the State that it is not practical to consider requesting an additional judge during the upcoming session of the General Assembly.

However, I would like to point out that for two successive years, workload assessments have indicated a need for additional judges in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. Last year, the report prepared by the National Center for State Courts indicated that there was a need of 18.60 judges in comparison to the 16.0 judges authorized for the court. This year, the projection has increased to 19.3 judges, the largest additional judge need in the State.

Additionally, several other factors need to be illustrated about the workload demand in our court:

- (1) Population projections in Baltimore County for July, 2003, places the County third in the State with 782,420 residents;
- (2) Domestic filings have increased by 25.7 percent over the past five years raising the number from 7,735 in FY 1998 to the current level of 9,723 filings;



- (3) Civil filings rose 19.8 percent during the same period from 15,402 civil cases filed in FY 1998 to 18,452 filings in FY 2002;
- (4) The Court has made extensive use of retired judges and alternative dispute resolution programs in order to make certain that the civil dockets are kept current; and
- (5) The Court has continued to minimize the number of routine criminal cases praying jury trials from the District Court by fast tracking these cases through our Instant Jury Trial Program.

Despite these accomplishments, the Court still continues to postpone civil cases (both domestic and non-domestic) because we are not able to reach them on the day of trial. Over the past fiscal year this affected at least a third of the 355 cases that were placed on stand-by. Providing additional judges will go a long way toward resolving this problem. Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Grason Turnbull II", with a horizontal line extending to the left.

John Grason Turnbull II  
Judge

cc: Honorable Robert M. Bell  
Peter J. Lally  
Faye Gaskins

*The Circuit Court for Harford County*

CHAMBERS OF  
William O. Carr  
JUDGE

Third Judicial Circuit  
20 West Courtland Street  
Bel Air Maryland 21014

Telephone (410) 638-3282  
Fax (410) 879-6449  
TTY/Voice/ASCII

Diane Burke, Court Clerk  
Sandy Kemp, Court Stenographer

November 4, 2002

Frank Broccolina  
Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judicial Center  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Annual Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships

Dear Mr. Broccolina:

Please be advised that I have reviewed the Annual Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships forwarded to me earlier.

According to the figures in the report, the total number of filings has increased from 7,577 in 1998 to 10,457 in fiscal year 2002. The majority to this increase is attributable to the civil filings. The majority of the increase in civil cases has come in the area of Family Law/Domestic Law where the filings have increased almost 100%. While this increase has certainly created a strain on the court system, we have been able to manage the increase in case load because of the able assistance of retired Judge Whitfill who comes back two days per week to assist in the management of custody/visitation cases and by the continued development of additional services in our Office of Family Court Services.

On the non-domestic side of the civil docket, for the past eleven months we have been more pro-active in setting early scheduling conferences which include discovery deadlines, motions hearing dates, and trial dates. It is my belief that the continuation of this practice will assist us in the more prompt disposition of cases and in keeping the civil docket under control.

On the criminal side, the report accurately notes that almost the entire increase in the case load is attributable to prayers for jury trial from District Court. Until the Maryland legislature and the judiciary take action to seek a constitution amendment to limit the right of jury trial

prayers from District Court, this number will continue to rise. Interestingly enough, the number of indictments actually declined so that if a significant percentage of the prayers for jury trial could be eliminated, more judicial resources would be available to handle civil cases. It should also be noted that based on statistics generated by JIS, the total number of criminal cases pending as of July 1, 2002, was at almost at the level that it was in 1995.

It should also be noted that should Harford County receive another judge, we would once again be faced with a dilemma regarding space. All the available court rooms and support facilities are now occupied by judges or the juvenile court. It may be possible, of course, to relocate the juvenile court but we currently have no practical location for such a move and have received no commitment from either the state or the county to fund that move.

Overall, I concur with the recommendations that considering the total volume of cases we could use another judge, but feel confident that by continuing our ongoing efforts at case management of both the criminal and civil dockets we can continue to keep the current case load under control.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



William O. Carr  
JUDGE

WOC/tls



FRED C. WRIGHT, III  
CHIEF JUDGE  
FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF MARYLAND

CIRCUIT COURT  
FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY  
COURT HOUSE  
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740

October 28, 2002

TO: Robert M. Bell  
Chief Judge  
Court of Appeals of Maryland

FROM: Fred C. Wright, III  
Administrative Judge

Washington County continues to rank 6<sup>th</sup> in the number of criminal filings - behind only the major metropolitan jurisdictions - and 7<sup>th</sup> in the number of total cases filed during the fiscal year ending June 30. Only because of the cooperative efforts and strong work ethic of our four (4) judges, master and clerical staff are we able to sustain our efficiency.

As the result of the prior methodology to determine "judicial resources by standard," Washington County had a constant need for three (3) additional judicial officers. See Statistical Needs Analysis as far back as 1998. A full-time family law master has lessened the burden but I am certain that utilizing prior standards would result in the certification of need for two (2) judges as was reported to the General Assembly in 1998. Attachment A.


The present method based on "weighted caseload" methodology shows the need for one (1). I would suggest that the actual need may be greater.

Whether the need is one or two, our local government has also recognized the necessity of expanding circuit court services by including \$3 million in its capital plans in order to provide additional space in the courthouse. However, the economy caused delay in implementation. The county is now in a position to proceed with the project. A timeline is provided showing expected completion March, 2005. Attachment B.

Hon. Robert M. Bell  
Page two  
October 28, 2002

Therefore, although certification of need is supported, year after year, by the workload and demands upon our court, funding must again be delayed.

Respectfully,



Fred C. Wright, III

FCW/djg



4

ROBERT M. BELL  
CHIEF JUDGE  
COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND  
ROBERT C. MURPHY COURTS OF APPEAL BUILDING  
361 ROWE BOULEVARD  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-6999

November 16, 1998

Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Honorable Casper R. Taylor, Jr.  
Speaker of the House  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

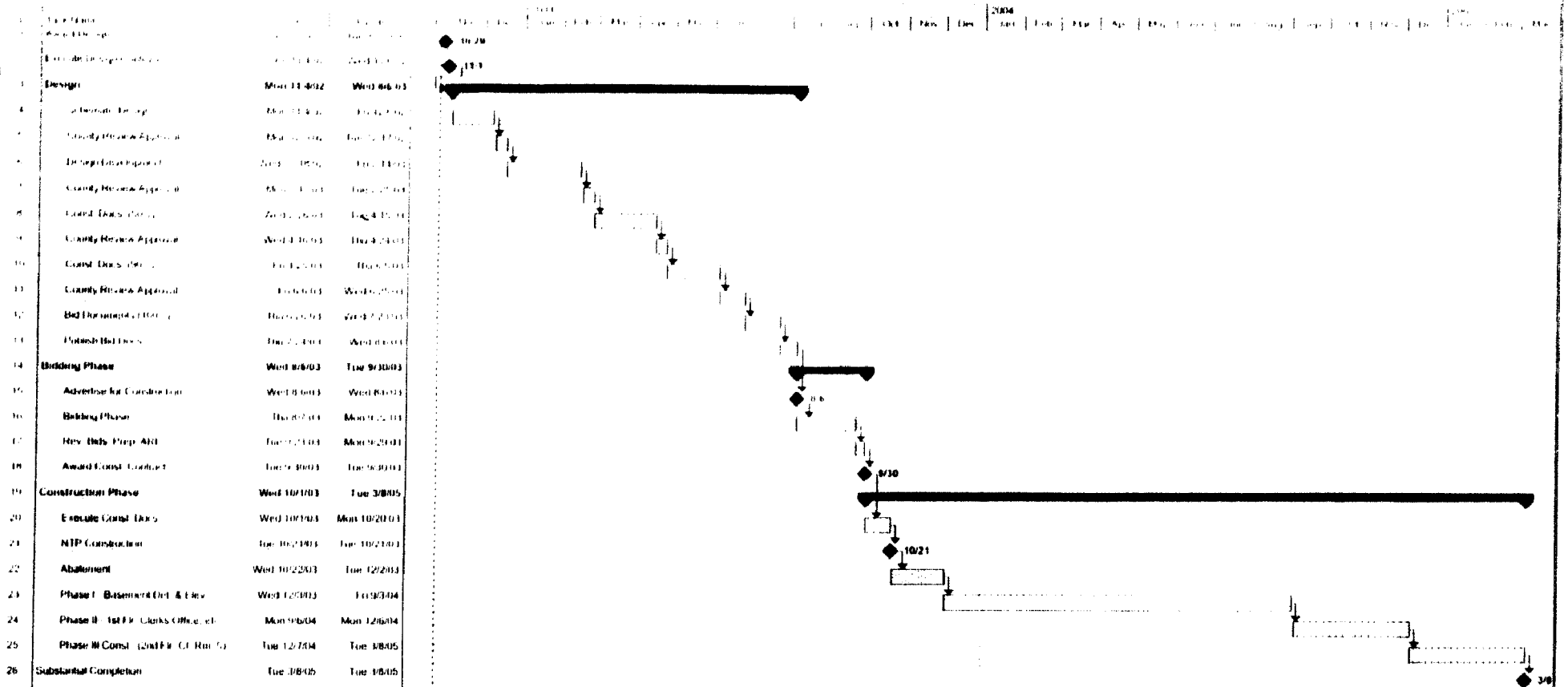
Re: Judgeship Needs for Fiscal Year 2000

Gentlemen:

In accordance with established procedure, I am submitting the *Annual Certification of Needs for Additional Judgeships for Fiscal Year 2000*. We have established the need for seven (7) additional Circuit Court Judges and four (4) additional District Court Judges in the following jurisdictions:

Circuit Court		District Court	
Allegany County	1	Frederick County	1
Calvert County	1	Montgomery County	1
Charles County	1	Prince George's County	1
Frederick County	1	St. Mary's County	1
Washington	2		
Worcester County	1		
Total	7	Total	4

# Washington County Court House Renovations - For New Circuit Court Room No. 5, Judges Chambers, & Detention Area.



Project Code  
WDC-FR-1025A02

Task  
Split

Progress  
Milestone

Summary  
Rolled Up Task

Rolled Up Split  
Rolled Up Milestone

Rolled Up Progress  
External Tasks

Project Summary



STATE OF MARYLAND  
FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
ANNAPOLIS  
21401

JOSEPH P. MANCK  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

October 23, 2002

TELEPHONE (410) 222-1429  
TDD-FOR HEARING AND  
SPEECH IMPAIRED  
(410) 222-1429

Mr. Frank Broccolina  
State Court Administrator  
Maryland Judicial Center  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Broccolina:

This letter is being written in response to Chief Judge Robert M. Bell's memorandum to the county administrative judges requesting input to supplement the judiciary's request for additional judgeships.

I have attached to my letter Judge Clayton Greene's letter to you of August 30, 2001, which summarizes the need for two new judges in Anne Arundel County.

As you are aware, we have now implemented the Juvenile Drug Court, which requires, at the minimum, the services of one judge one day per week. This, of course, removes this judge from the normal rotation.

Our case management of civil and family law cases demands, pursuant to case time standards, that we schedule and hear scheduling and pretrial conferences in an expeditious manner. Because we are in dire need of judges to handle these matters, Chief Judge Bell was kind enough to allow us the use of three retired judges on a weekly basis to conduct pretrial settlement conferences in civil and family law cases. Obviously, this is a stop gap measure which would be better served by having our numbers increased by two, enabling us to begin a regularly scheduled pretrial docket.

When a judge conducts a pretrial settlement conference, it normally takes two to three hours on a serious civil or domestic matter to come to a resolution, if at all possible. Inasmuch as our plans, both in family and civil, call for not setting a trial date until all discovery is completed and we have exhausted all avenues of mediation and settlement, we are very much in need of qualified judges to guide these cases away from the courtroom to a mutually satisfactory settlement - all of



Mr. Frank Broccolina  
State Court Administrator  
October 23, 2002  
Page Two

course, done within case time standards.

Presently, I have added a judge to the family division, bringing their total to four in order to best serve the needs of our litigants. Obviously, however, this now takes one judge out of civil and criminal rotation. In criminal, one judge handles the docket with a back-up, and in situations where there are more than two jury trials, any judge who frees up is then requested to take a criminal jury. Just the other day, for example, two juries went to two judges while I took the pleas and two court trials. In addition to criminal, we have one judge per week assigned as chambers judge, which leaves three judges, assuming all ten are here and not in education or on vacation, to handle the balance of our civil docket, be it motions, discovery disputes, trials, jury trials, workers' comp., etc.

Candidly, when you review Judge Greene's August 30, 2001 letter in conjunction with mine, you can see that, at a minimum, two additional judges are needed in Anne Arundel County.

I thank you for your kind cooperation in this matter and remain.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Manck

JPM:cpb

Enc:

cc: Chief Judge Robert M. Bell

Set  
1/11



*Fifth Judicial Circuit of Maryland*

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

CLAYTON GREENE, JR.  
FIFTH CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

August 30, 2001

TELEPHONE 410-222-1375  
TDD 410-222-1429

Mr. Frank Broccolina  
Deputy State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judicial Center  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships  
2002 Legislative Session (Fiscal Year 2003)

Dear Mr. Broccolina:

I am writing in response to Chief Judge Robert M. Bell's memorandum dated August 13, 2001 requesting input to supplement the judiciary's request for additional judgeships during the upcoming legislative session.

The following matters have or will have impact upon the workload of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court:

- Implementation of the Juvenile Drug Court
- Case Management of Civil and Family Law cases
- Increased numbers of scheduling and pre-trial conferences
- Need to schedule meetings with department heads and administrative staff during work day without interference with the court docket
- Re-organization of masters' duties and responsibilities

In order to implement the Juvenile Drug Court in Anne

Arundel County, one judge will be removed from normal docket rotation a minimum of three (3) days per week. In addition to court time, judicial resources will be required for screening cases and reviewing the reports from health care providers, social workers and case workers. The judge involved with the Juvenile Drug Court will be required to visit juvenile detention facilities on a regular basis and continue dialogue with schools involved with the juvenile offenders in Anne Arundel County.

In accordance with our Differentiated Case Management Plan, civil and family law cases are not scheduled for trial until there is reasonable assurance the cases will go to trial. In order to make this determination, a judge is required to spend more time with the litigants and counsel to manage the case toward resolution short of trial. In ninety-eight (98%) percent of cases, a mandatory scheduling conference, conducted by a judicial officer, is held. In addition, several pre-trial conferences are scheduled in the vast majority of cases. Although these requisite preliminary matters are straining our judicial resources, the court is compelled to schedule additional pre-trial conferences. This is predicated upon our goal of not setting a trial date until discovery is completed and all avenues of mediation and settlement have been fully explored.

In the past, I have scheduled bench meetings between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. and during lunch hours. Administrative meetings with department heads and other judges assigned administrative duties are held in the morning prior to docket call or during lunch hours. Since our court is growing, it is impractical to continue business as usual. No major corporation holds important policy meetings during lunch or before work. They are held at reasonable times during the day. Therefore, with additional judicial personnel, the court could better schedule these administrative meetings during the day and direct those judges not directly involved in the subject matter to continue to address the various dockets. The court would still be compelled to schedule bench meetings prior to 9:00 a.m. to allow all judges to attend.

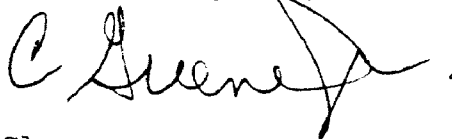
Our masters-in-chancery are conducting hearings in accordance with Maryland Rule 9-208. The masters conduct scheduling and pre-trial conferences, as well as CINA, and less serious delinquency matters on a routine basis. Given the shocking recent statistics regarding the escalation of juvenile crime, I think we can safely anticipate marked increases in these type of hearings.

The workload of the judges of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court has increased by virtue of the requirement that they hear felony juvenile delinquency matters, as well as

termination of parental rights contested and non-contested cases, and child support enforcement matters. Our situation becomes more acute with the adherence to case time standards in all areas before the court.

All of these factors illuminate the inescapable conclusion that I miscalculated our current judicial needs. It is without a doubt that the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court needs a minimum of two additional judges to continue to develop and fully implement our case management plans and to pursue innovative initiatives, such as the much needed case time standards and Juvenile Drug Court.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Greene, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Clayton Greene, Jr.

CG/kk

cc: Chief Judge Robert M. Bell  
Chair, Conference of Circuit Court Judges



SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF MARYLAND  
JUDICIAL CENTER  
50 MARYLAND AVENUE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

PAUL H. WEINSTEIN  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

(240) 777-9180

October 28, 2002

Mr. Frank Broccolina  
State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judicial Center  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships in the Circuit  
Courts. 2003 Session (Fiscal Year 2004)**

Dear Frank:

I am writing in response to Chief Judge Bell's letter of October 18, 2002 regarding the Statistical Needs Analysis for New Judgeships in the Circuit Courts.

Since 1996 when Rule 16-204 was under consideration, we conveyed our concerns regarding the reorganization of the circuit court structure to support the family division. Specifically, our concerns were based upon the lack of judicial resources to support the concept of a comprehensive, coordinated structure that administered justice by addressing familial issues earlier and more effectively.

The statewide philosophy on family divisions, as adopted by the judiciary, is to provide the most effective case management principles and practical alternatives for the constructive resolution of issues. The family divisions are to deal exclusively with matters affecting the family unit and provide services necessary to improve the lives of children and adult family members. Based upon this philosophy in which family divisions are to deal exclusively with familial issues, Montgomery County took the initiative to begin the implementation of the one-judge/one team approach to domestic matters anticipating, of course, that future judicial positions were forthcoming due to increased caseloads and demonstrated need. That unfortunately, has not

October 28, 2002  
Mr. Frank Broccolina  
Page Two

occurred. We are not reaching familial issues as timely as we should due to the scheduling availability of our judges. This is not to pronounce that we are not functioning within the statewide case time standards, it is to demonstrate that families in significant conflict are in need of judicial intervention more frequently so as to not allow for uncertainty and dysfunction in their lives.

In order to achieve the established family division implementation goals, we must focus upon special case assignment, where needed, as well as problem solving and prevention. To fully achieve this principle, we must not allow the full complement of judges to handle certain segments of each case. Chief Judge Bell has been extremely supportive and dedicated to funding family division services, such as ADR, Pro Se Assistance, Guardian Ad Litem, Psychological Evaluations, Supervised Visitation, Facilitation and Case Managers. Additionally the social services component, an equally important mission of the family division, has been greatly increased in the family arena.

Currently, Montgomery County is undergoing another structural transformation by the transfer of juvenile jurisdiction from the District Court to the Circuit Court. We have developed a detailed, comprehensive Juvenile Differentiated Case Management Plan (enclosed) for the juvenile division and we anticipate some early successes. However, this plan is based upon the current resources available to us and does not incorporate the juvenile division into the family division, again, for lack of judicial resources.

As the analysis indicates, we are the most populous jurisdiction in Maryland. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission recently calculated that our past growth trend would continue into the future. We have experienced a precipitous increase in family division workload since 1998 in addition to the multifaceted caseload becoming more complicated with our diverse culture in Montgomery County.

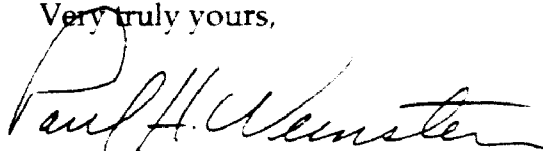
Accordingly, I am optimistic that the legislature will agree with our concerns in the family and juvenile area. Our need for additional judgeships is sustained by the analysis illustrating that an additional two (2) judges are needed in Montgomery County. Courtroom space is not available, however, juvenile chamber space is currently near completion. The County Council and

October 28, 2002  
Mr. Frank Broccolina  
Page Three

County Executive have continued throughout my tenure as Circuit and Administrative Judge to support the need for additional judgeships in Montgomery County. I look forward to working with you toward a favorable outcome in this endeavor.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul H. Weinstein". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Paul H. Weinstein

Phw/pqh  
Cc: Pamela Q. Harris



**Circuit Court  
for  
Baltimore City**

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MARYLAND  
111 NORTH CALVERT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

ELLEN M. HELLER  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

410-396-4916  
FAX: (410) 545-7326  
TDD/Deaf TTY: (410) 396-4930  
E-mail: Ellen.Heller@courts.state.md.us

October 31, 2002

Mr. Frank Broccolina  
State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Maryland Judicial Center  
580 Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: FY 2004

Dear Mr. Broccolina:

By this letter, the Circuit Court for Baltimore City is requesting four new judges, one judge for each of our dockets: civil, criminal, juvenile and domestic. This Court has not had a new judge since 1997. It remains, however, the busiest court in the State and is seriously challenged by a lack of judicial resources. In spite of creative new programs on all dockets, the bottom line is that there are far too many cases for the number of available judges.

***Criminal Docket***

For the calendar year 2001, there were 8,942 incidents that were the subject of criminal filings. Because incidents often result in multiple charges, the actual number of criminal charges would be much greater. These felony filings did not include the 7,012 jury trial prayer cases which originated in District Court or the 540 criminal appeals from District Court. These numbers represent a significant increase in filings over calendar year 2000 when there were 8,043 felony filings and 6,259 jury trial prayer cases. Put another way, there were an **additional** 1,652 criminal cases filed. Currently, a minimum of nine felony trials are set before judges five days a week. Fourteen of the 30 judges of this court are assigned to hear criminal matters. Three are assigned just to hear misdemeanor cases which originate in District Court. Approximately 60 - 75 new instant jury trial prayers are received from the District Court on a daily basis.

During the past few years, this court has implemented several significant measures to process cases in a timely, yet fair manner. A firm postponement policy, a discovery court, pre-trial conferences, centralized arraignments, computerized scheduling orders, a DCM management program, and a new



statistical management package have helped. Nevertheless, unless there are more judges to preside over these cases, it will be impossible for this court to continue to process cases consistent with State time standards.

### ***Juvenile***

The Juvenile Court is in dire need of at least one additional Judge. The Juvenile Court would then have four full-time judges and nine full-time masters. In fiscal year 2001, the Juvenile Division handled approximately 2,000 new CINA petitions, 700 TPR petitions, 500 adoption petitions and over 6,800 delinquency petitions. During that year the court conducted in excess of 55,000 hearings. In fiscal year 2002, the Juvenile Division handled approximately 2,000 new CINA petitions, 525 TPR petitions, 650 adoption petitions and 6,800 delinquency petitions. During that fiscal year, more than 61,000 hearings were conducted. Clearly an additional Judge would benefit the TPR, adoption, CINA and delinquency dockets.

Specifically, as to TPRs, a recent study done by the Foster Care Court Improvement Project indicated that based upon the current volume of newly filed TPR petitions, using standards set by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, our court requires 5.5 additional full-time Judges (in addition to the one full-time Judge currently assigned to TPR's) to appropriately handle the TPR docket alone.

It should also be noted that, pursuant to "best practices" associated with ASFA (American Safe Family and Adoption Act), over the last three years there has been a marked increase in the number of CINA hearings for the purposes of permanency planning. Ideally, all of those hearings should be handled by a Judge. In the absence of additional judicial resources, we have reduced the number of Masters available to hear delinquency cases to otherwise handle permanency planning hearings.

### ***Civil***

In large measure, because of significant reforms to the docket in the early 1990's, the civil docket of this court has been characterized as one of the most efficient in Maryland. A DCM Program providing for separate scheduling tracks for cases, depending on the complexity of the case; pre-trial scheduling orders; mandatory settlement conferences; and a mediation program have gone a long way to ensure that civil cases have reliable trial dates and resolve in a timely manner. In particular, this court has one of the strongest alternative dispute resolution programs in Maryland requiring employment, worker's compensation, business, contract, insurance and environmental cases to go to a court appointed mediator before the conclusion of discovery. A study commissioned by MACRO indicated that the worker's compensation cases referred to mediation resolved in statistically significant shorter time periods and resulted in less discovery filings. Currently, there are *ad hoc* groups of the bar working with the court to expand the mediation program to medical malpractice and other professional liability cases. In addition, in January, 2003 the court will begin its Business and Technology Case Program.

These initiatives must be viewed with the backdrop of the significant filings in this docket. For example, in FY 2002 there were 17,781 civil filings in contrast to 16,688 in FY 2001. As with the criminal docket, this represents almost 1,100 additional filings. Most of those filings were in civil jury trial cases and asbestos cases. For FY 2002 alone there were 2,673 new asbestos filings. Currently, although there has been a complete revamping of the asbestos docket, there are approximately 18,000 asbestos cases awaiting trial dates! Since 1999, this court has been meeting regularly with the asbestos bar and is scheduling approximately 150 cases every four weeks. Thousands of asbestos cases have resolved prior to trial. However, significant judicial input is needed for their resolution.

The new filings also reflect the hundreds of lead paint cases particular to Baltimore City. It is estimated at any one time there are between 800 - 1,000 lead paint cases pending. This year the Mayor of Baltimore City announced Project 5000 - an initiative by which the City hopes to acquire title to 5000 properties by use of Petitions to foreclose the rights of redemption from tax sales. The City expects to begin filing approximately 150 of these cases per month starting in November, 2002.

Because of the needs of the other dockets, at the current time there are only six judges available to preside over jury trial cases with an additional one judge sitting as a chambers court. There should be at least nine. The assistance of retired judges is needed on a daily basis not only to try cases, but review an average of 130 motions every day. Without question, a new judge is needed for this docket.

### *Family Division*

In the Family Division, for FY 2002 there were 5,112 filings which represented a small increase over the 5,034 filings for FY 2001. Because of the individual attention required in these cases, which involve child custody, child support, domestic violence, and property issues, each case needs at least three hearings (scheduling, pre-trial, and trial). Therefore, approximately 9,924 hearings are needed to be scheduled in a year. There are only two judges and one full time master available to hear those cases because the third family division judge presides over non-support cases. Two of the three masters are designated to hear only child support cases. This year the number of cases with *pro se* litigants continues to rise. Eighty-three percent of domestic cases have at least one party who is *pro se* and in 51% of the family division cases, both parties are *pro se*. With increased *pro se* litigation, more judicial attention is needed and hearings often take longer.

The number of family division filings cited above did not include the paternity non-support cases filed in FY 2002 which were 11,120. In addition to a judge who hears these cases on a full-time basis, two family division masters assist with these cases. There is another master who reviews special requests for emergency hearings. There were over 200 requests for emergency hearings during the past year and they must be accommodated because in most of them children may be in threat of immediate physical harm. Also, any decision rendered by the master at these hearings is subject to immediate judicial review upon request of the parties and thus, judge time is needed as well.

Mr. Frank Broccolina

Oct. 31, 2002

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Because of the significant number of cases, and the time that is needed to attend to these important issues, the backlog of cases awaiting scheduling is unfortunately accumulating. An additional judge would alleviate the backlog and allow the family division to comply with new State time standards for the processing of cases.

***Conclusion***

Baltimore City may aptly be characterized as a "stone soup jurisdiction." In spite of a shortage of necessary judges and limited support resources, the Circuit Court continues to create new management reforms to allow its caseload to process in a fair, timely and efficient manner. However, in order to meet the needs of the citizens of Baltimore City, a minimum of four additional judgeships is necessary.

Sincerely,



Ellen M. Heller  
Administrative Judge

EMH kms

cc: Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge  
All Judges, Circuit Court for Baltimore City

## Appendix D



DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND  
for Anne Arundel County

James W. Dryden  
Administrative Judge

The Robert F. Sweeney District Court Building  
251 Rowe Boulevard  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Tel: (410) 260-1360  
Fax: (410) 260-1312

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Martha F. Rasin, Chief Judge  
FROM: James W. Dryden, Administrative Judge *M*  
DATE: August 31, 2001  
SUBJECT: Additional Judge for District Seven

I have enclosed a copy of my memorandum of July 20, 2000 that requested an additional judge for District Seven. Everything I said in that memorandum remains true today; the special programs we operate to divert cases from the courtroom, the increased business over time (although the latest year to year statistics show only a small increase) and the time spent by our judges on the bench.

I would again like to draw special attention to the time our judges spend on the bench; about five hours per day. Each month our judges earn first or second place honors in that category. We earn that place; we do not stretch out cases or complete office work on the bench. We try cases, especially drunk driving cases (which did show an almost 10% increase last year).

Anne Arundel County and Montgomery County continue to process more drunk driving cases than any other jurisdiction. We "process" a significant number of these cases by trial. A statistical report covering the period from July 2000 to March 2001 indicates that out of the total drunk driving charges of 5,361 in that period in Anne Arundel County, 199 ended in not guilty verdicts, more than any other jurisdiction. We try many drunk driving cases and they take time.

Although not quite as dramatic that same situation applies in criminal cases. In that same period, July 2000 to March 2001, 1,144 criminal cases were disposed of in Anne Arundel County, 48 by not guilty verdicts. If you compare that number with the number of not guilty verdicts in other jurisdictions, in both absolute and percentage terms, the conclusion seems inescapable that many cases proceed to trial in Anne Arundel County.

None of this is meant to suggest that Anne Arundel County is right or wrong about anything; just an effort to explain why we spend so much time on the bench and that the time spent is productive.

I also point this out in the belief that the workload assessment report which demonstrated the need for two-thirds of a judge in Anne Arundel County was only two-thirds accurate. As I understand the methodology used, time values, i.e. District Court Case Weights, were given to each type of case with drunk driving cases consuming, on average, almost twenty one minutes of time. This is more time needed than for any other type of case, except domestic violence and peace order cases. Again our county has more of those cases and more of them go to trial.

I would again refer you to my memorandum of last year. As I pointed out in that memorandum, we have a space physically available that can be quickly turned into a courtroom.

Finally, if this request is granted, we would need an additional bailiff and courtroom clerk to staff the courtroom.

Thank you for your consideration.

JWD/kjh



DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND  
for Anne Arundel County

James W. Dryden  
Administrative Judge

The Robert F. Sweeney District Court Building  
251 Rowe Boulevard  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Tel: (410) 260-1360  
Fax: (410) 260-1312

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Martha F. Rasin, Chief Judge

FROM: James W. Dryden, Administrative Judge 

DATE: July 20, 2000

SUBJECT: Additional Judge for District 7

As part of my education before writing this letter requesting an additional judge in District 7, I read some previous requests from other jurisdictions. They were excellent and featured a marshalling of facts to support the request. What was not stated specifically and directly, although an unspoken theme, is how seriously the lack of judges erodes the quality of justice.<sup>1</sup> Our judges, here and in other districts, have to balance every other consideration against the need to finish the docket. If dockets are not finished there are just more and bigger dockets lurking around the corner.

Our judges average five hours per day on the bench. Since only six hours are available every day this means many of our judges will spend more than the available six hours on many days just to finish the docket. Some judges would spend even more time if staffing availability was not a factor. Even if a judge finishes the docket under those conditions, that judge is not sure if the proper attention has been paid to each case. This pell-mell approach does not engender the trust of the citizens.

We have already tried to help ourselves. We are either operating or part of many programs to reduce the strain on the docket. We direct the appropriate criminal cases to the mediation program of the State's Attorney's Office, direct bad check cases to the State's Attorney's program, use a video to advise defendants of their rights, have a designated settlement judge to ride herd on special set civil cases, have started a mediation program in small claim civil cases and have an expedited guilty plea program cooperatively run by the Anne Arundel County Detention Center, the Public Defender's Office and the State's Attorney's Office.

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<sup>1</sup>Only Judge Rasin's request dated 11/22/95 directly addressed the problem.

Additional Judge for District 7

July 19, 2000

Page Two

Having said all this, specificity of proof is necessary and readily available. We have experienced an increase in time-consuming special set civil cases. We have little bench time. We operate a Drug Court, thereby losing a judge for a regular docket for one day per week. The number of motor vehicle cases processed has increased from 82,376 in 1995-96 to 108,025 in 1998-99. The number of criminal cases has increased from 10,322 in 1995-96 to 14,941 in 1998-99. This is of special concern because the number prevents us from setting the cases in for trial as quickly as we should. We have more drunk driving cases in our jurisdiction every year than any other jurisdiction, averaging 6,500 (except 1998-99 when Montgomery County passed us by 500). Our domestic violence filings increased from 1,332 in 1995-96 to 1,676 in 1998-99. Finally, we have a room available that can easily be outfitted as a courtroom.

I could write more and offer more statistics. However, it seems to me it would just be more stating of the obvious.

JWD/kjh





DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND  
District One

KEITH E. MATHEWS  
Administrative Judge

August 28, 2001

5800 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215  
(410) 876-8014  
TTY: (410) 383-7555

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge  
District Court of Maryland  
Courts of Appeal Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Judge Rasin:

As I review my letter to you last year requesting one additional judgeship for Baltimore City, I find the information contained therein just as appropriate this year. I will resubmit last year's letter and supplement it with the following information:

1. The Early Disposition Court at Eastside is now operating five days a week.
2. The Central Booking courtroom is operating five days a week with a District Court judge there 4 1/2 days a week.
3. The administration of District One with 26 judges, 56 commissioners and over 250 non-judicial employees is so time consuming that I am not able to assume full time bench duties.
4. I forgot to mention in last year's letter that Baltimore City is the only jurisdiction where it takes four judicial days a week just to handle parking tickets.
5. The most important addition to this year's request is the result of the Judicial Workload Assessment Report that I incorporate herein by reference thereto. The comprehensive weighted analysis of judicial workload recommends an additional 2.13 judges needed for Baltimore City.

Based on the above, attached and incorporated, your consideration of this request is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith E. Mathews  
Administrative Judge

KEM/db



**DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**  
District One  
August 11, 2000

**KEITH E. MATHEWS**  
*Administrative Judge*

5800 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215  
(410) 878-8014  
TTY: (410) 383-7555

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge  
District Court of Maryland  
Courts of Appeal Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Judge Rasin:

The purpose of this letter is to request an additional judgeship for District One, Baltimore City.

Although raw statistics may not show a significant increase in filings, the complexity of specialized dockets have put an ever increasing burden on all District One judges.

The criminal Domestic Violence docket is five days a week and has full-time prosecutors who specialize in this area. They only bring the most serious cases to this court. As with any domestic case, the acrimony between the parties is intense. I cannot assign one judge full-time to that docket because the burnout rate is high.

The Drug Treatment docket requires highly specialized training for the judge and a long-term commitment. Replacement judges are limited to only those who have been trained in that area. The national recognition and success of this court makes it likely that it will be expanded.

District One has the only full-time Housing docket. In an effort to reduce blight and increase affordable city housing, the Legislature has conferred special condemnation powers to the District Court in Baltimore City only. We have been told by the new administration to expect an increase in the use of this law as a part of its effort in this area.

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council has proposed and we have initiated an Early Disposition docket. In September of this year, the docket will be full-time, five days a week, 9 to 5. This is the court where a defendant who, after arrest, and release by the

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
August 11, 2000  
Page Two

commissioner, is scheduled for a plea or arraignment within forty-eight hours. To make room for the full-time Early Disposition docket we are moving our Rent Court from the Eastside Building to the Civil Building. That will eliminate a civil court and increase the workload on the remaining Civil courts.

It is not unusual for a judge to start a criminal court docket with eighty cases scheduled. Specialty dockets and bail review dockets have increased the case load of our regular dockets. For example, Courtroom Number Three at Eastside is used two days a week for our pilot Early Disposition docket and one-half day a week for the handgun docket. That leaves two and one-half days to try five days of criminal cases.

We have been hearing cases on a part-time basis at the Central Booking courtroom for some time now. Later this year, we will begin full time operations. This alone should justify an additional judge. It is an additional court to operate and expands our court locations from four to five. This courtroom will be used for early dispositions of defendants who are not released, as well as quality case review, bail reviews, re-review of bails and felony matters that may arise as a result of our cross-designated status. The last fiscal year when we were only there part-time, we required 276 retired judge days.

The new Mayor and Police Commissioner have made it clear that they will soon be implementing their crime reduction initiative that will result in increased arrests.

Civil cases have become more complex and are consuming more of our judges' non-bench time. It is not unusual for our Civil judges to issue written opinions similar to the example attached and all without law clerks.

For the before-stated reasons, your consideration of this request is appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Keith E. Mathews  
Administrative Judge

KEM/db

General Motors Acceptance Corp.  
Plaintiff

vs.

Johnny A. Riley, Sr.  
Defendant

IN THE

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND

FOR BALTIMORE CITY

CASE NO.: 0101-59284-95

\* \* \* \* \*

OPINION AND ORDER

The facts in this case are undisputed. The Plaintiff, General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC), and the Defendant, Johnny A. Riley, Sr. (Riley) entered into a retail installment sales contract for the purchase of a motor vehicle. The contract went into default, and the Plaintiff repossessed the vehicle and sold it at a private auction. Defendant contends that CL §12-626(d) requires that when a car is sold at a private sale the Plaintiff must notify the defendant of the time and place of sale. The Plaintiff did not notify Defendant of the time and place of the sale of the vehicle prior to selling it, but did comply with all other provisions of the law. It is undisputed that if Plaintiff failed to comply with the law its claim must be denied.

The issue presented here is whether Section 12-626(d) refers

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to all sales of repossessed cars or only those sold at a public auction as referred to in Section 12-626(a). It is undisputed that under Section 12-626(d) "at least ten days before the sale", the holder shall notify the buyer in writing sent by registered or certified mail of the time and place of the sale". (emphasis added) It is undisputed that this was not done.

GMAC contends that such notice is not required, but is limited to public sales, relying upon language contained in the Court of Appeals decision in Kline v. Central Motors Dodge, 328 Md. 448, 614 A.2d 1313 (1992) stating:

"It is undisputed that the 'public' sale referred to in Subsection (e)1(i) is the public auction sale referred to in RISA Section 12-626(a)-(d)." 614 A.2d at 1314.

The Defendant disagrees contending that the language contained in Kline is merely dicta and does not refer to an issue presented to or decided by the Court in that case. Defendant points out that the parties in Kline agreed that Section 626(d) refers only to a public auction sale since that issue was not central to their contentions in that case. The Kline case stands for the principle that a private sale must be commercially reasonable.

The test to be used in analyzing the statute are generally accepted. They were set out in Frost v. State, 336 Md. 125, 137 (1994):

"In analyzing a statute, we must always be cognizant of a fundamental principle that statutory construction is approached from a 'commonsensical' perspective. (citations omitted). Thus we seek to avoid constructions that are illogical, unreasonable, or inconsistent with common sense. (citations omitted). Furthermore we do not reach statutory language 'in isolation or out of context' [but construe it] in light of the legislature's general purpose and in the context of the statute as a whole"  
326 Md. 125, 137, 138.

In attempting to understand this law, we begin with a review of the entire section. The heading of the relevant law provides little guidance. It is entitled "Repossession - resale of goods". The section begins by setting out the circumstances under which a public auction can be demanded by the buyer. Subsections (b) and (c) both plainly refer to sales at a public auction. Section (d) does not expressly refer to either a public or private sale.

Subsection (e) expressly defines which of its provision apply to which type of sale and refers to both public and private sales. Thus, various provisions of §12-626 apply to both types of sales but generally set out, in each instance, which type of sale is

involved. The only exceptions are subsection (d) and (f) (which requires a statement of disposition of the proceeds). This review of the context of the section suggests that where the legislature wished to distinguish between a public or private sale, it did so expressly.

Accordingly, one begins an analysis of this section with the reasonable presumption that since §12-626(d) failed to specifically state whether "the sale" was a public or private sale, the subsection refers to any sale and requires notice of all sales, public or private.

The Defendant argues that such an interpretation would be reasonable based upon the generally accepted principle that where the statutory scheme is designed to provide protection to certain individuals, there is no reason to read a portion of these protections out of the statute. Rather, ambiguity should be resolved in favor of the class to be protected and the general purpose of the section.

In addition, the Plaintiff offered no compelling reasons why

a notice of private sale could not be provided to the Defendant just as easily as that of a public sale. There has been no proof that such a notice would, in any way, prejudice the Plaintiff or others similarly situated. Of course, the Defendant would be placed in a more difficult position with respect to attending a private auction sale than with respect to a public auction sale; however, there appears to be no compelling reason why the Defendant should not be apprised of the time and place so that, if feasible, he could make arrangements to attend and observe to insure that a commercially reasonable sale occurs.

The Court feels that the Plaintiff's reliance upon Kline v. Central Motors Dodge, 328 Md. 448, 614 A.2d 1313 (1992) is misplaced. While it is noteworthy that the holding of that case with respect to the issue before the Court is cited in the notes in the statute as standing for the proposition which Plaintiff supports, a reading of the case does not support this claim. It is clear that the holding in Kline on this issue is not central to the subject matter of that case. The Court gave no consideration to



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this issue in Kline, but merely recited the parties acquiescence on the issue. Accordingly, with respect to the issue before this Court in this matter, the holding in Kline appears to provide no substantive guidance.

This Court believes that a finding in favor of the Plaintiff would require reading into the statute the word "public" before the word "sale" in Subsection 12-626(d). This is not reasonable particularly in light of the fact that where the legislature appeared to intend the statute to apply to a particular type of sale, it expressly so stated. To support the Plaintiff's view, the Court would have to assume that the legislature simply made a mistake in writing the statute and proceed to rewrite the statute to the satisfaction of Plaintiff. This Court believes that such a rewriting of the statute is inappropriate and unsupported by traditional rules of statutory interpretation. Rather the Court would prefer to use the plain, common sense meaning of Subsection 12-626(d) and interpret it to apply to sales in general, which this Court believes is a rational and reasonable interpretation of the

plain meaning of the subsection, particularly when considered in light of the general protective purpose of the statute.

Accordingly, for these reasons, the Court will enter a judgment in this matter in favor of the Defendant.

---

John M. Glynn  
Judge

cc: All Counsel



Frank M. Kratovil  
Administrative Judge

**DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**

District Number 5  
August 27, 2001

Courthouse, Suite 345B  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772  
(301) 952-4023

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Hon. Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge

FROM: Frank M. Kratovil *FMK*  
Administrative Judge

SUBJ: Additional Judgeships for Prince George's County

I am requesting four additional judges for the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The reasons for my request are as follows:

1. The Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts retained the services of the National Center for State Courts in May of 2000 to conduct a workload assessment for the Circuit and District Courts to provide quantitative documentation of the resource needs of the State Trial Courts. After collection, review and assessment of time study information carefully and systematically documented, the conclusory report submitted on August 15, 2000 was illuminating if shocking. The conclusion reached was that the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District was assessed as needing 17.50 judges. As you are well aware, we had 13 judges at that time and have 13 judges now. The formula and procedure for the gathering of this information was carefully, strictly outlined and quite scientific. This assessment - a need for 4.5 more judges is justification enough for additional judicial help.
2. The recent emphasis and study by the courts and judges of case management and court technology innovation if anything, reinforces the need for adequate judicial presence. Far from reducing or eliminating the need for judges, all of the seminars and instructions point to the great need for an adequate judiciary to implement these streamlining procedures.
3. Our domestic violence dockets increase each year and 3,598 domestic violence cases were filed last year, an increase of 4%. The public and experts on the subject insists that these cases be handled promptly and thoroughly. We cannot afford to dilute the time spent on each case because of these ever increasing caseloads. Our District Court denied more domestic violence petitions than the Circuit Court handled.

4. Corollary to the domestic violence docket, but separate, are the peace order filings. From January 2000 through December 2000 we had 729 filings and through July 2001, we are already up 34%.
5. Our caseload in municipal infractions was (up 21%); parking tickets (up 22%) and the new automated red light cases (up 240%) show adjustments are necessary.
6. Although our civil docket was down 3%, these figures are cyclic and the tell tale statistic is that we had 1,778 automobile torts filed. Because of our increased jurisdiction and the speed with which we are scheduling these cases, there is no doubt the filing of these cases, which are time consuming, will increase.
7. Our second regional booking station - with Commissioners Station - has opened in Eastover and a third is scheduled for opening in December. This will surely mean an increase in the in the courts criminal docket which is slightly down this year, since one of the purposes of regional booking is to free up police resulting in more arrests.

FMK:jac



Frank M. Kratovil  
Administrative Judge

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND  
District Number 5

Courthouse, Suite 345B  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772  
(301) 952-4023

July 13, 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hon. Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge

FROM: Frank M. Kratovil *FMK*  
Administrative Judge

SUBJ: Additional Judge for Prince George's County

I am requesting an addition judge for the Fifth Judicial District. The reasons for my request are as follows:

- 1) Although domestic violence cases are on approximately the same level as of last year, that level is approximately 200 to 300 hundred cases per month. The bench time for our domestic violence cases has now increased to approximately 5 hours per day. I cannot represent that there will be an increase in the domestic violence cases to a certainty, but it seems very likely that there will be before the end of the year.
- 2) There has been an increase in motor vehicle cases of approximately 3% so far this year.
- 3) In my report of July of 1999, I reported the probable operation of two new regional booking facilities. One of those regional booking facilities had the ground breaking. That regional booking station should be operational in February, 2001 and as I have previously pointed out, that will increase the number of arrests and prosecutions on our trial dockets.
- 4) Peace Orders are beginning to be used more widely and through June of this year, 594 Peace Orders have been filed. As the information of the availability of this mechanism becomes more widely know, I would expect that number to increase very substantially within the next six months.

FMK:jac



STEPHEN L. CLAGETT  
*Administrative Judge*

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND  
District Four

Louis Goldstein Multi-Service Center  
290 Duke Street, 2nd Floor  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678-4136  
(410) 535-2091  
(410) 535-8800

August 31, 2001

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge  
District Court of Maryland  
Courts of Appeal Building  
361 Rowe Boulevard  
Annapolis, MD 21401-2395

Dear Chief Judge Rasin:

On August 12, 1998, I sent you a formal request for an additional judgeship in District IV for St. Mary's County. Not to be deterred by "rejection," I have written you every year since reiterating the need for that judge and I sincerely hope the Legislature approves the judgeship for 2002 because we are at a "crisis stage."

Rather than repeat and revise the statistic data, I am enclosing my letters and memorandum from the last four years. St. Mary's County and Calvert County are desperate for some help. The criminal and civil dockets in St. Mary's are such that I have had attorneys and litigants contact me about why they don't get a trial date in some cases for six to ten months. In Calvert County - rightfully or wrongfully - I simply overload the dockets to try to avoid this delay even though we still can't set in criminal cases for at least four months as a "general rule" because of the volume. By increasing dockets, I am afraid that litigants, prosecutors, attorneys, witnesses and the public are not being given the time and attention that they deserve and justice may be shortchanged in the name of expediency.

"Bench time" is a deceiving statistic. First, as stated, the size of the dockets are such that attorneys and litigants are resolving otherwise triable issues for fear of not "getting into Court." As a general rule, the larger the docket, the less trials. Secondly, for every hour spent on the bench, a judge spends at least an hour off the bench doing chambers work. This phenomena is especially true in a one judge county such as Calvert and St. Mary's because the judge becomes the focal point for all questions from the general public, staff, local police, etc. Judge Slade and I spend what little time we have between the morning and afternoon dockets eating a sandwich while signing stacks of Orders or answering phone calls.

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
August 31, 2001  
Page 2

As a policy, the Administrative Judges stated that the vast majority of small claim, traffic and criminal cases should have a final disposition entered within ninety (90) days. This cannot happen anytime in the near future with our current staffing of judges. If we do receive this position in 2002, I envision going from five to seven docket days in St. Mary's County immediately. I would also add an additional docket day to Calvert. The good news is that we already have the space in each County available to accommodate two judges sitting at one time.

Finally, we recently received the Workload Assessment Model Final Report. On a per judge basis, it appears that our District and District V have the most urgent need for judges. Considering that we are currently a four judge district serving three counties in the fastest growing region of the State, our need is more critical than ever.

Thank you for your consideration. If you need any additional information, please call.

Very truly yours,

Stephen L. Clagett  
Administrative Judge, District IV

SLC/dw

Enclosures




Stephen L. Clagett  
Administrative Judge

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND  
District Number 4

Louis Goldstein Multi-Service Center  
200 Duke Street, 2nd Floor  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678-4136  
(410) 535-2091  
(410) 535-8800

MEMORANDUM

TO: Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge

FROM: The Honorable Stephen L. Clagett  
Administrative Judge, District IV 

DATE: March 2, 2001

SUBJECT: St. Mary's County District Court's Need for a Second Judge

Listed below are the reasons why St. Mary's County needs a second District Court Judge

- (1) Population growth in Southern Maryland — fastest growing region in State  
Statewide population average per District Court judge — 50,071 per county

#1	St. Mary's County	90,500
#4	Calvert County	76,100
#7	Charles County	61,700

St. Mary's Sheriff's Dept. has increased the number of officers by  
20% over last 2 years

- (2) Circuit District Judge Ratios

As of July 1, 1999	143 Circuit Court	
As of July 1, 1999	108 District Court	Average 1.3 : 1

Calvert Co. and a few others have the second highest ratio of 2 : 1  
St. Mary's 3 Circuit Court judges to the 1 District Court Judge

- (3) Fiscal 2000 Report

St. Mary's =1 in motor vehicle cases filed per judge  
St. Mary's =3 in criminal cases filed per judge (Calvert Co. =2 & Worcester =1)  
St. Mary's =4 in civil cases filed (Calvert #2)



- (4) Jury Trial Prayers have dropped precipitously since Judge Slade was appointed.
- (5) Judge Slade is very thorough and patient; he uses supervised probation extensively (dramatic increase in VOPs)
- (6) Delays in setting trial dates — 4 - 6 months from arrest to trial
- (7) Calvert's population, trial date delays, and increase in cases filed are very close — a second judge in St. Mary's allows Calvert to expand dockets to open second courtroom one or two days to clear the backlog. This eliminates the need for Calvert to request another District Court judge for at least two years. (If a second St. Mary's judge is approved, we will increase the number of docket days from five to six or seven — not ten. The judges can travel the other days, not only to Calvert County but to other jurisdictions, where a void needs to be filled)
- (8) Increasing complexity and breadth of District Court dockets statewide

DV's Peace Orders!

Expanded Civil Jurisdiction

Chamber's work (equal amount of hours spent "off bench" as "bench time")

Outside court related activities i.e. various committees involving domestic violence, substance abuse, public speaking, etc... have increased in recent years



Stephen L. Clagett  
Administrative Judge

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND  
District Number 4

Louis Goldstein Multi-Service Center  
200 Duke Street, 2nd Floor  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678-4136  
(410) 535-2091  
(410) 535-8800

July 6, 2000

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge, District Court of Maryland  
Courts of Appeal Building  
361 Rowe Boulevard  
Annapolis, MD 21401-2395

Dear Chief Judge Rasin:

I have written the last two years requesting a second District Court judge in St. Mary's County. As much as I sincerely believe that we need this position, I have to be candid in stating that the District Court in St. Mary's County is operating efficiently and can continue to do so for the immediate future if this request is not granted. Having Judge Slade sitting in Leonardtown five days per week instead of the three that he will sit if we get a second judge has given him the opportunity to develop a style methodology compatible with the size and type of docket that he sees. Although still the highest in District Four, his bench time has been less than I expected. Also, there is a "bigger picture" than what I see. There are many other factors for you and Chief Judge Bell to consider before asking the legislature for another judge-not the least of which are the results of the Judicial Certification Methodology Study which is currently underway.

Rather than paraphrase last year's request, I am attaching a copy of my August 24, 1999 letter and will supplement my facts, figures and arguments.

The population of St. Mary's County specifically and southern Maryland in general is ever increasing. This expanding population is demanding more and better service. Once again, the Sheriff's Department in St. Mary's has added a significant number of deputies. Once deputies are hired, more and more traffic and criminal cases are processed. The number of motor vehicle filings in St. Mary's County alone increased by thirty-seven percent last year. We are currently scheduling traffic and criminal cases for trial five to six months after the summons, warrant or citation is issued. Large claim civil cases cannot be scheduled for approximately seven months. St. Mary's County has

Page 2

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin

July 5, 2000

the highest population in the state per District Court judge. Correspondingly, it ranks near the top in criminal, traffic, and civil cases filed per judge. It is still the only jurisdiction in the state of Maryland where you have three Circuit Court judges to one District Court judge. The next highest ratio, if I can interpret the statistics correctly, is two to one. Most jurisdictions have approximately 1.5 Circuit Court judges to every District Court judge.

I have written you recently asking that I be able to set an additional docket day in Calvert County. My dockets are getting heavier each month. When you have three courtrooms full of litigants each and every day coming through the District Court, you start making mistakes. The State's Attorney's Office is complaining that the caseload is such on any given docket that they really do not have time to try a case. Without excessive plea bargaining, we would come to a standstill in no time at all. As it is, District Court judges have to be able to listen, talk and write at the same time. If they are not able to master those traits, their bench time is going to become extraordinary. I can foresee that it will not be too far off before I will be sitting five days per week and we will need judges every day that I am on leave as opposed to not having a docket. The added St. Mary's judge can fill this vacancy and also sit in Calvert County on a regular basis so we don't have to ask for another judge here for several years.

When you have an increase in the number of cases filed as we have had in the last decade, there's a resulting increase in chambers work. For every hour that Judge Slade is in court which probably averages four and one half to five and one half hours per day, I would venture to say that he has an equal amount of time off the bench signing court orders, corresponding, answering telephone calls, and answering general questions from the clerks or public.

During my tenure as judge I have probably sat in half the District Courts in Maryland. In years past, it was not uncommon for a District Court judge to have a relatively busy but relaxing day. With the increase in the number of cases and the type of cases illustrated by our expanding civil jurisdiction and the increased number of filings in the domestic violence and peace order areas, that is no longer the case.

Judge Slade is a fine judge. He is patient, diligent, and knowledgeable. He and his predecessor have different views on certain matters which is also resulting in a considerable amount of bench time and hearings. There has been a noted decrease in jury trial demands since Judge Slade was appointed. He is also a firm believer in supervised probation. Resultantly, the number of violation of probation hearings are going to increase several fold over the number of hearings necessitated when Judge Raley sat in the District Court.

Page 3

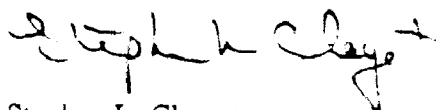
The Honorable Martha F. Rasin

July 5, 2000

If we obtain the other judge for St. Mary's County, we will increase not from five to ten docket days per week, but from five to six days per week in the beginning. Each judge will sit three days and be available to you to sit in other courts where there are vacancies the other two days per week. Currently, I know that you fill this void by having retired judges sit. I am extremely grateful to the retired judges that are available to come to southern Maryland when our judges are on leave. However, they are only supposed to work eight hours from portal to portal, and they cannot be expected to handle the same volume of cases as a judge who sits on a daily basis.

Although I'm sure that you have experts who can break down the statistics better than I, the need for an additional judgeship in St. Mary's County really has become a practical necessity. The growth in population, law enforcement resources, and caseload activity is going to expand. If we are to serve the public in meeting this demand, we need that judgeship.

Very truly yours,



Stephen L. Clagen  
Administrative Judge  
District IV

SLC/dw

Enclosure

Page 2

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin

July 5, 2000

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Page 3

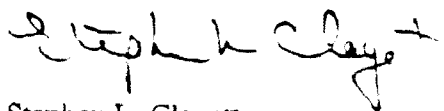
The Honorable Martha F. Rasin

July 5, 2000

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Although I'm sure that you have experts who can break down the statistics better than I, the need for an additional judgeship in St. Mary's County really has become a practical necessity. The growth in population, law enforcement resources, and caseload activity is going to expand. If we are to serve the public in meeting this demand, we need that judgeship.

Very truly yours,



Stephen L. Clagen  
Administrative Judge  
District IV

SLC/dw

Enclosure



Stephen L. Clagett  
Administrative Judge

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND  
District Number 4

Louis Goldstein Multi-Service Center  
200 Duke Street, 2nd Floor  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678-4136  
(410) 535-2091  
(410) 535-8800

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge

FROM: The Honorable Stephen L. Clagett  
Administrative Judge, District IV

DATE: March 2, 2001

SUBJECT: St. Mary's County District Court's Need for a Second Judge

Listed below are the reasons why St. Mary's County needs a second District Court Judge.

- (1) Population growth in Southern Maryland — fastest growing region in State  
Statewide population average per District Court judge — 50,071 per county

#1	St. Mary's County	90,500
#4	Calvert County	76,100
#7	Charles County	61,700

St. Mary's Sheriff's Dept. has increased the number of officers by  
20% over last 2 years

- (2) Circuit/District Judge Ratios

As of July 1, 1999 143 Circuit Court  
As of July 1, 1999 108 District Court  
Average 1.3 : 1

Calvert Co. and a few others have the second highest ratio of 2 : 1  
St. Mary's 3 Circuit Court judges to the 1 District Court Judge

- (3) Fiscal 2000 Report

St. Mary's #1 in motor vehicle cases filed per judge  
St. Mary's #3 in criminal cases filed per judge (Calvert Co. #2 & Worcester #1)  
St. Mary's #4 in civil cases filed (Calvert #2)

Page 2  
March 2, 2001

- (4) Jury Trial Prayers have dropped precipitously since Judge Slade was appointed
- (5) Judge Slade is very thorough and patient; he uses supervised probation extensively (dramatic increase in VOPs)
- (6) Delays in setting trial dates — 4 - 6 months from arrest to trial
- (7) Calvert's population, trial date delays, and increase in cases filed are very close — a second judge in St. Mary's allows Calvert to expand dockets to open second courtroom one or two days to clear the backlog. This eliminates the need for Calvert to request another District Court judge for at least two years. (If a second St. Mary's judge is approved, we will increase the number of docket days from five to six or seven — not ten. The judges can travel the other days, not only to Calvert County but to other jurisdictions, where a void needs to be filled)
- (8) Increasing complexity and breadth of District Court dockets statewide

DV's/Peace Orders!

Expanded Civil Jurisdiction

Chamber's work (equal amount of hours spent "off bench" as "bench time")

Outside court related activities i.e. various committees involving domestic violence, substance abuse, public speaking, etc... have increased in recent years





Stephen L. Clagett  
Administrative Judge

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND  
District Number 4

Louis Goldstein Multi-Service Center  
200 Duke Street, 2nd Floor  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678-1136  
(410) 535-2091  
(410) 535-8800

August 24, 1999

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge  
District Court of Maryland  
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2395

Dear Chief Judge Rasin:

I am writing this letter to formally request an additional judgeship in District IV for St. Mary's County. As the Administrative Judge of this district I set out the following facts to support this request.

The population of St. Mary's County continues to show dramatic increases. This population shift, which is occurring throughout the Southern Maryland region, is expected to continue well into the next millennium. The Maryland Office of Planning, Planning Data Services, in their published article, "Population Trends in Maryland," note that, "Calvert, Cecil and St. Mary's Counties bucked the State trend of slower population growth by having their largest gains of the 1990's in the most recent year." The *Washington Post*, relying on statistics obtained from the Bureau of the Census, reports that St. Mary's County had the third highest population growth rate of any jurisdiction within the state from 1997 to 1998, increasing their population by 2.8%. The growth of population in St. Mary's County continues to this date and gives no indication of abating in the near future.

Local government agencies have already started to respond to the increased need for services in areas that will have direct impact on the activities of the District Court. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department has budget approval for an additional 12 sworn officers in FY 1999 and 8 new sworn positions in FY 2000, an effective increase of 21%. The Maryland State Police barrack in St. Mary's County has increased its staffing by 3 additional troopers in FY 1999 and is projecting a need for an additional 5 positions for full staffing. This staffing increase will have an immediate impact on the volume of cases heard in the District Court for St. Mary's County.

Page 2

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin

August 24, 1999

The District Court has responded to the increase in volume of activity by authorizing additional commissioner personnel in St. Mary's County. As of July 1, 1998, a second full time District Court Commissioner position was authorized for St. Mary's County. This position has been filled and is having an impact on the number of District Court activities in this county.

There was a third Circuit Court judgeship funded in St. Mary's County effective October 1, 1998. This position has had a significant impact on the District Court for St. Mary's County which I will address later in this request.

Statistics gathered from the "Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1997-1998" graphically demonstrate the present need for an additional District Court judgeship in St. Mary's County. During fiscal year 1998 St. Mary's County had a population of 84,000, significantly higher than any of the other one judge counties in the state (Chart #1). This number is expected to continue to show a consistent increase in the foreseeable future.

In comparison with all jurisdictions within the state, St. Mary's County has the highest population per judge of any other venue (Chart #2). It is also noted that the average population per judge in the state is 52,502. The population of St. Mary's County, a one judge jurisdiction, exceeds this average by more than thirty one thousand (Chart 3).

During fiscal year 1997, St. Mary's County recorded 24,782 cases filed and processed in the District Court. This is the highest number of cases filed or processed in a single judge county, with the exception Worcester County (Chart 4). St. Mary's County ranks above the statewide average in the category of cases filed or processed per judge. These numbers can be expected to show significant increases in the coming year as the population shift continues.

As stated earlier, the creation of a third Circuit Court judgeship in St. Mary's County has had a direct impact on District Court operations in that jurisdiction. The sitting District Court judge in St. Mary's County, Judge C. Clark Raley, was appointed to the new judgeship. While on the District Court bench, Judge Raley was a highly capable, effective, efficient and experienced jurist. This fact is demonstrated by the high levels of activity achieved in his county and accounts for the statistics reported by the judiciary's annual report during his tenure in the District Court. The District Court judgeship in St. Mary's County is vacant at present and the activities are being handled by visiting judges. Once the appointment is made to fill this vacancy, it is inconceivable to expect a newly appointed judge to immediately function in the same efficient manner.

Page 3

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin

August 24, 1999

The need for an additional judgeship in St. Mary's County is a statistical and practical necessity. The statistics show a continuing increase in all areas that affect District Court operations at this location. This growth is predicted to continue and the increase in population, law enforcement resources and activities must be anticipated and responded to in order to maintain efficient and effective District Court services.

The fiscal impact of an additional judgeship in St. Mary's County will be ameliorated by the fact that the existing court facility has the necessary space available for this position. I firmly believe that the creation of this new judgeship is necessary to maintain the integrity of the judicial process in St. Mary's County. I am requesting that this new judgeship be recommended to the legislature and available for appointment by no later than July 1 in the year 2000.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Stephen L. Clagett  
Administrative Judge  
District IV

SLC/dw

cc: Patricia H. Platt  
Richard W. Clemens  
Richard A. Parker

Chart #1

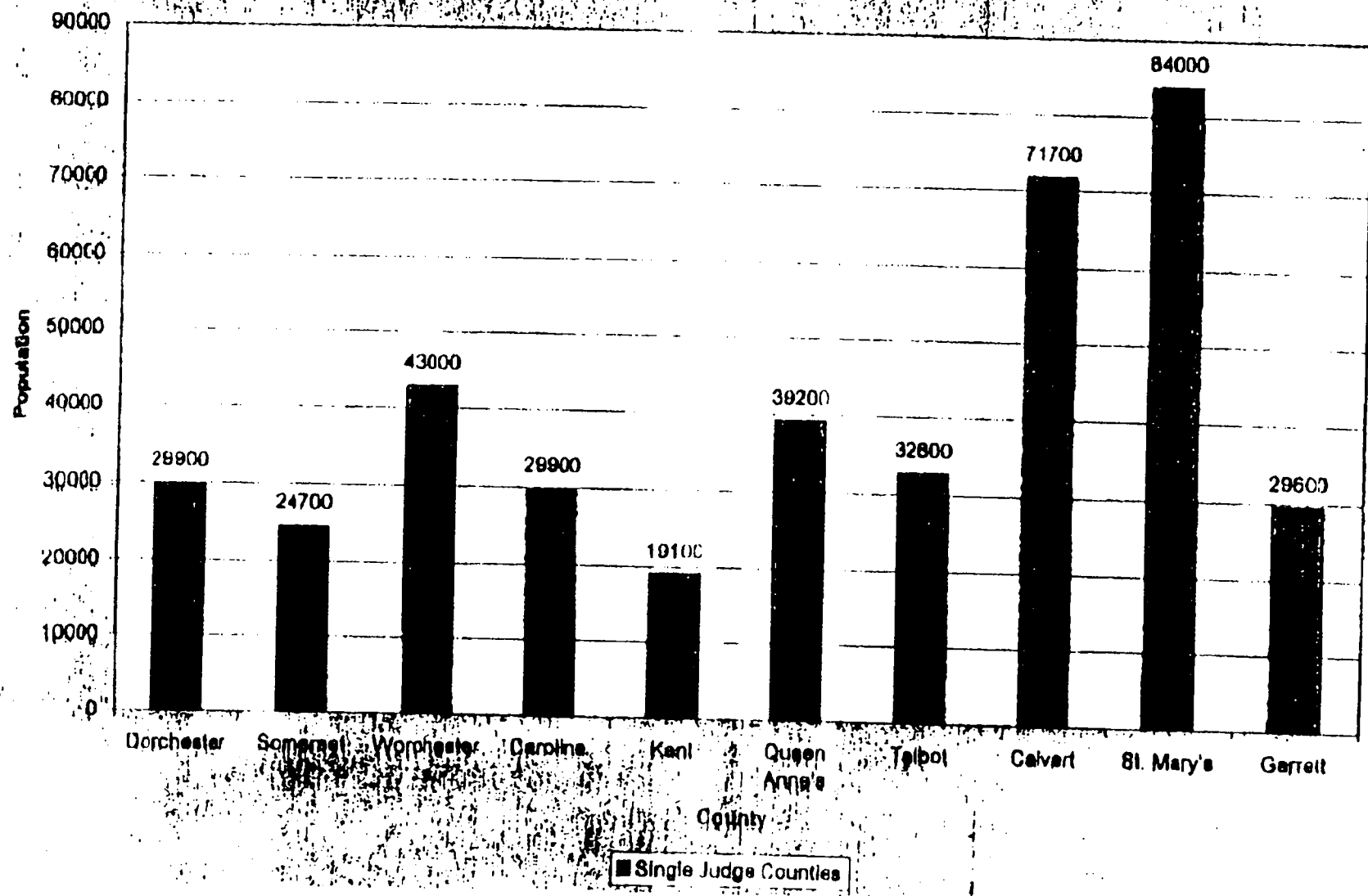


Chart #2

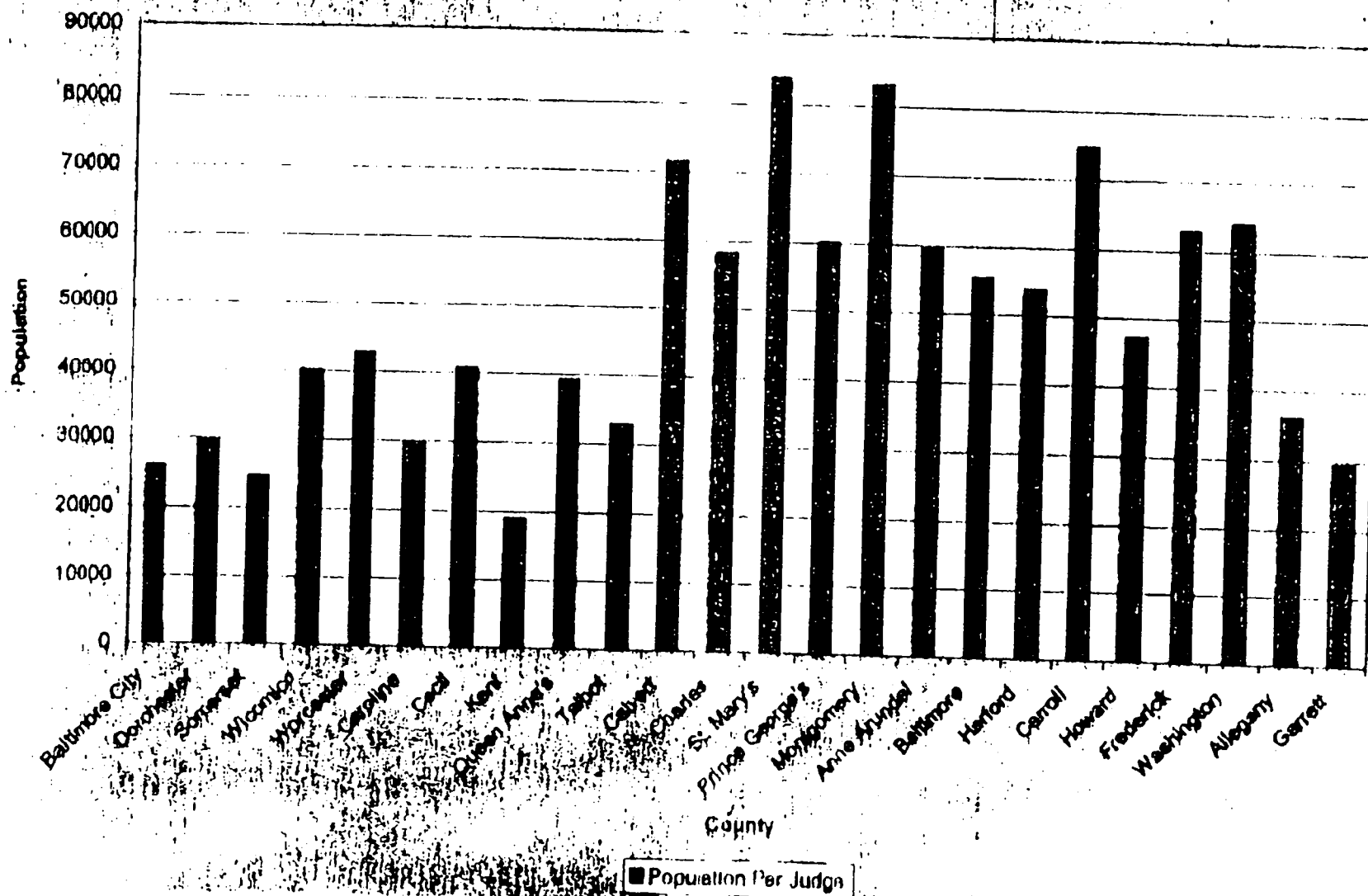


Chart #3

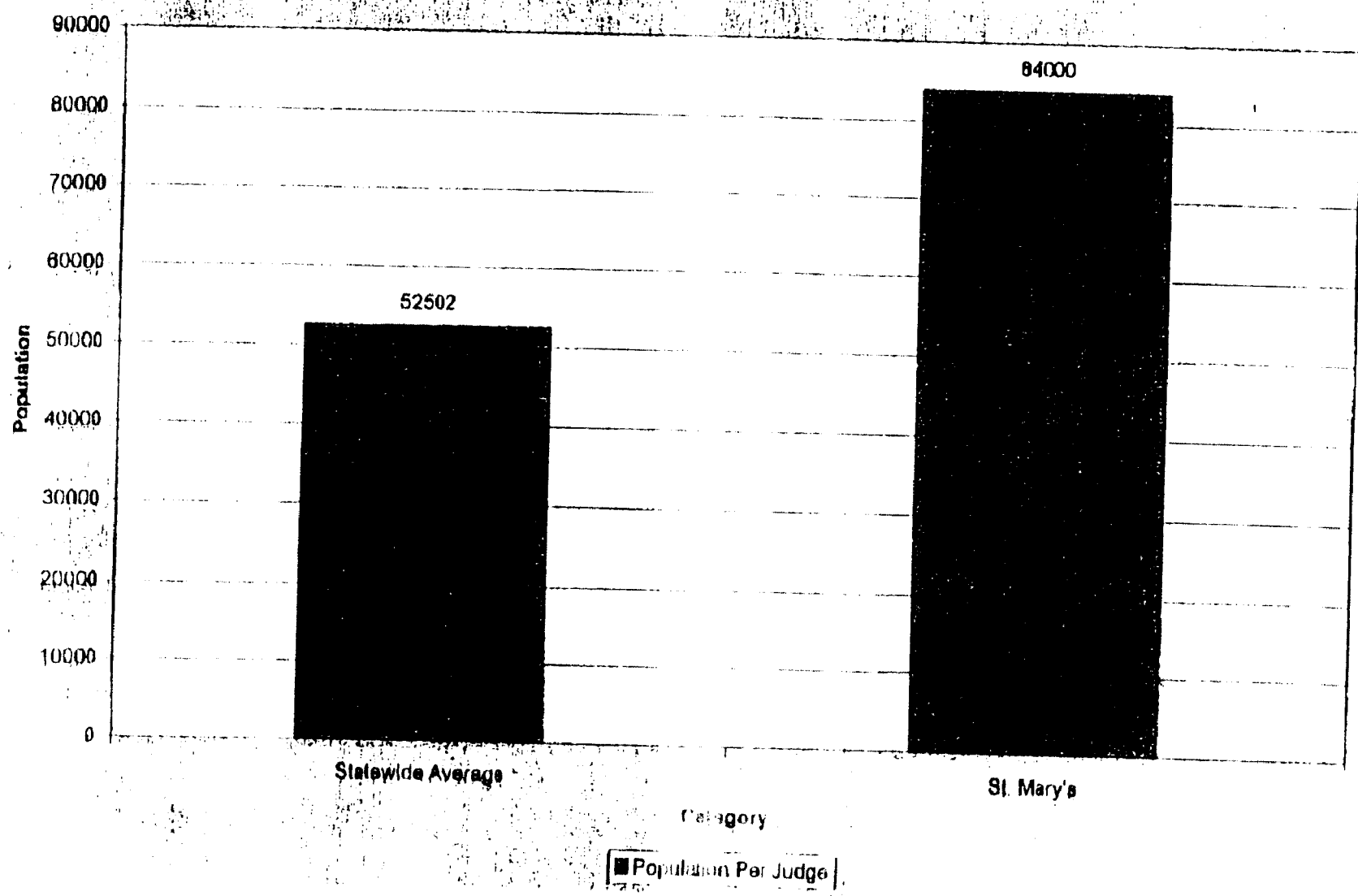
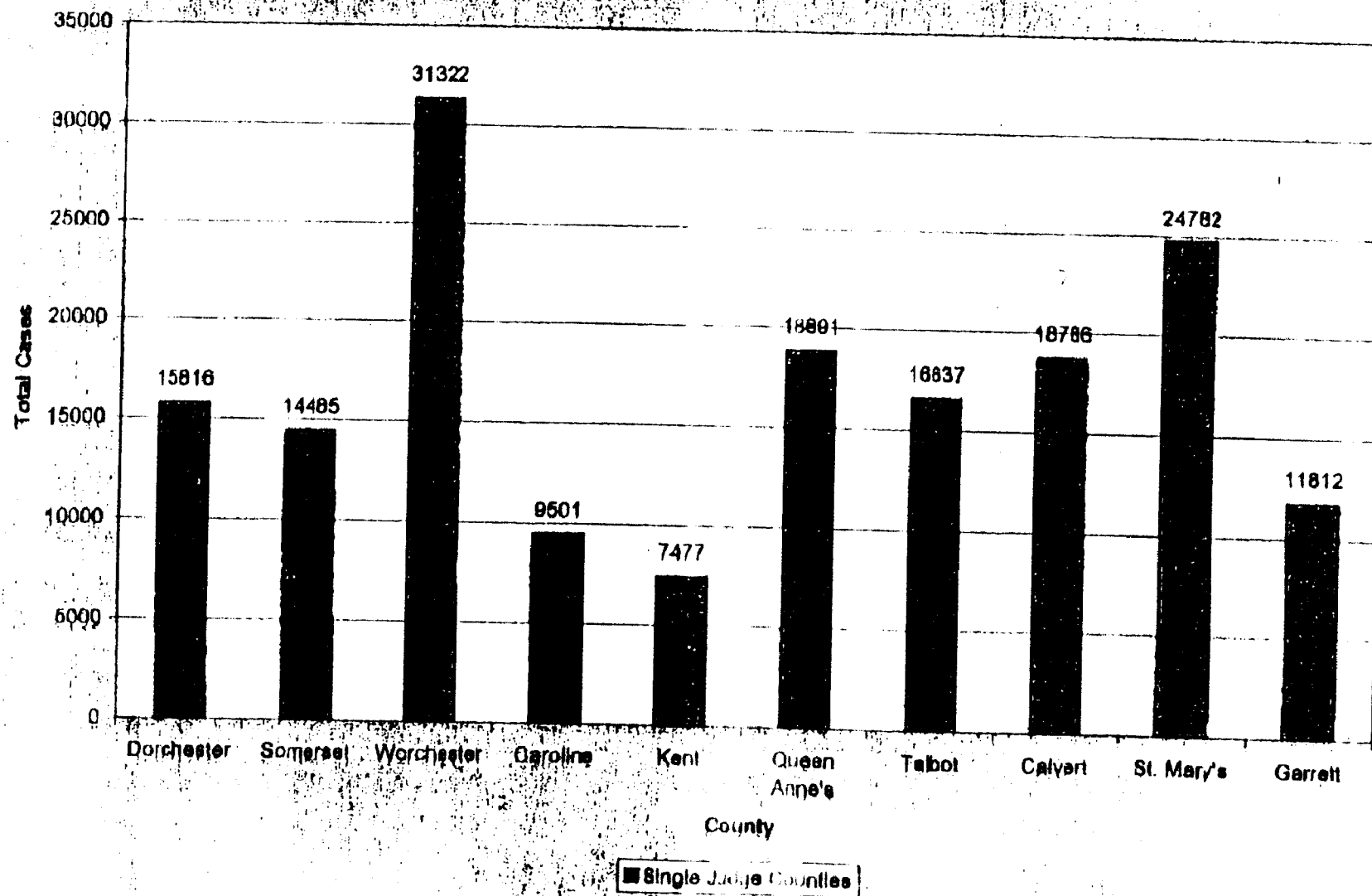


Chart #4



August 12, 1998

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge  
District Court of Maryland  
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building  
361 Rowe Boulevard  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2395

Dear Judge Rasin:

I am writing this letter to formally request an additional judgeship in District IV for St. Mary's County. As the Administrative Judge of this district I set out the following facts to support this request.

The population of St. Mary's County has shown a recent dramatic increase due primarily to the shift of U.S. military functions to this region. This population shift is expected to continue as noted by the Maryland Office of Planning, Planning Data Services. In their published article, "Population Trends in Maryland," they note that, "Calvert, Cecil and St. Mary's Counties bucked the State trend of slower population growth by having their largest gains of the 1990's in the most recent year." This document goes on to state that, "For St. Mary's County, these domestic migration gains were the result of the transfer of jobs to the Patuxent River Naval Air Station from areas outside of Maryland." This "migration" is expected to have significant impact on the demand for and the ability to provide government services in this region.

Local government agencies have already started to respond to the increased need for services in areas that will have direct impact on the activities of the District Court. The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department has increased the number of sworn personnel by 14% over the past two years. They project a further increase of 7% in the number of sworn personnel in the coming year. During this same period of time, the sheriff's department has added a total of eighteen officers to their correctional staff. This staffing increase can be predicted to have an immediate impact on the District Court for St. Mary's County.

The District Court has responded to the increase in volume of activity by authorizing additional commissioner personnel in St. Mary's County. As of July 1, 1998, a second full time District Court Commissioner position has been authorized for St. Mary's County. This position will be filled in the near future and will also impact on the number of District Court activities in this county.



The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
August 12, 1998  
Page 2

There will be a third Circuit Court judgeship funded in St. Mary's County effective October 1, 1999. This position may have a significant impact on the District Court for St. Mary's County which I will address later in this request.

Statistics gathered from the "Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1996-1997" graphically demonstrate the present need for an additional District Court judgeship in St. Mary's County. During fiscal year 1997 St. Mary's County had a population of 83,300 the highest of any one judge county in the state (Chart #1). This number is expected to increase with the projected influx of military and related civilian personnel at the naval air station and related activities.

In comparison with all counties within the state, St. Mary's County has the third highest population per judge of any other jurisdiction (Chart #2). It is also noted that the average population per judge in the state is 53,213. The population of St. Mary's County, a one judge jurisdiction, exceeds this average by more than thirty thousand (Chart 3).

During fiscal year 1997, St. Mary's County recorded 23,558 cases filed and processed in the District Court. This is the highest number of cases filed or processed in a single judge county, with the exception Worcester County (Chart 4). St. Mary's County ranks above the statewide average in the category of cases filed or processed per judge. These numbers can be expected to show significant increases in the coming year as the population shift continues.

As stated earlier, it is expected that the creation of a third Circuit Court judgeship in St. Mary's County will have a direct impact on District Court operations in that jurisdiction. The sitting District Court judge in St. Mary's County, Judge C. Clark Raley, is a candidate for the new judgeship. While it is impossible to predict an appointment, Judge Raley's considerable qualifications make him a leading contender.

Judge Raley is a capable, effective and efficient jurist. This is demonstrated by the high levels of activity achieved in his county and accounts for the statistics generated by the judiciary's annual report. Should Judge Raley remain on the District Court bench, even with his effective management, the total number of cases and the projected increase require the authorization of an additional judgeship for St. Mary's County.

I have not addressed "bench time" in this letter because of its inherent misleading character as a statistic. What may take some judges an hour to process may take another, like Judge Raley, only thirty minutes. On this subject I will only state that Judge Raley's bench time has significantly increased over the past year. Should he receive the appointment to the Circuit Court, it is inconceivable to expect a newly appointed judge to immediately function in the same efficient manner. The District Court needs to be prepared for this eventuality.

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin

August 12, 1998

Page 3

The statistics show a continuing increase in all areas that affect District Court operations in St. Mary's County. This growth is predicted to continue and the increase in population, law enforcement resources and activities must be anticipated and responded to in order to maintain efficient and effective District Court services.

The fiscal impact of an additional judgeship in St. Mary's County will be ameliorated by the fact that the existing court facility has the necessary space available for this position. I firmly believe that the creation of this new judgeship is necessary to maintain the integrity of the judicial process in St. Mary's County. I am requesting that this new judgeship be recommended to the legislature and available for appointment by no later than January 1 in the year 2000.

Very truly yours,

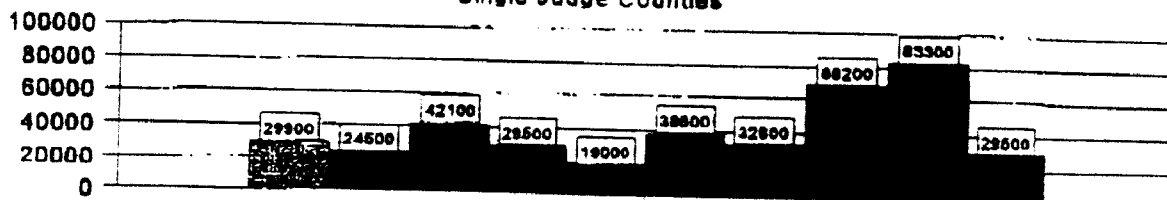
Stephen L. Clagett  
Administrative Judge  
District IV

SLC/dw

Enclosures

# Population

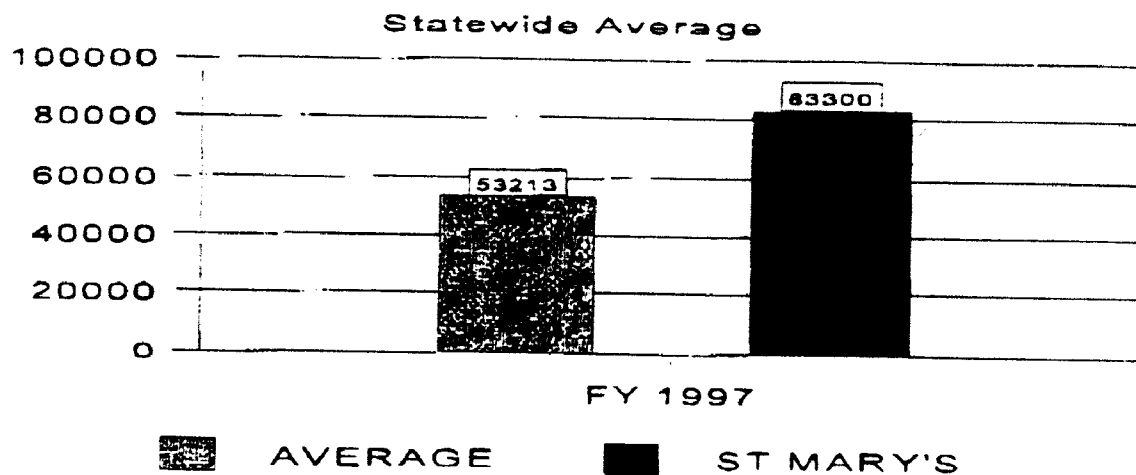
Single Judge Counties



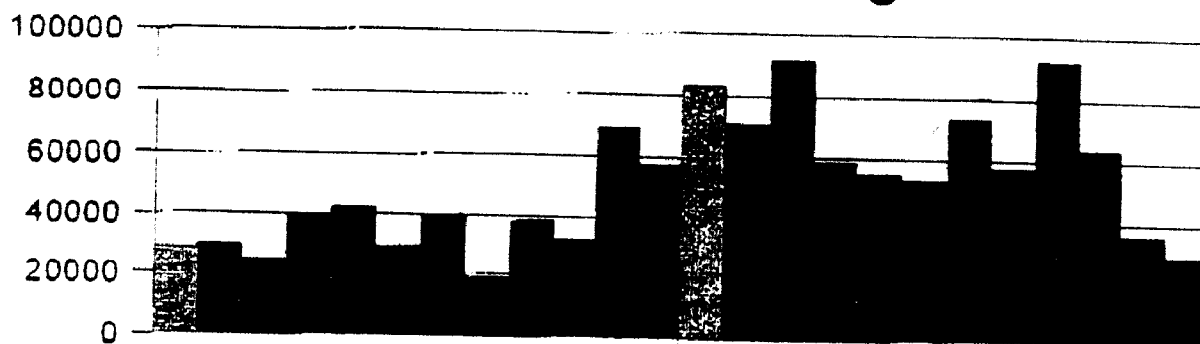
FY 1997

	Dorchester		Kent		St. Mary's
	Somerset		Queen Anne's		Garrett
	Worcester		Talbot		
	Caroline		Calvert		

## Population per Judge



## Population per Judge

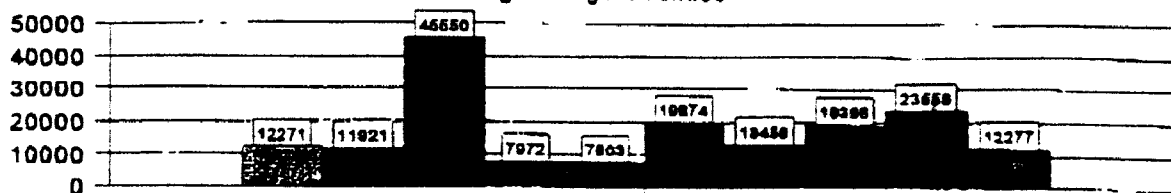


FY 1997

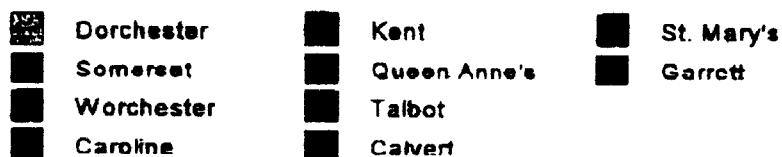
	Baltimore City		Dorchester		Somerset		Wicomico
	Worcester		Caroline		Cecil		Kent
	Queen Anne's		Talbot		Calvert		Charles
	St. Mary's		Prince George's		Montgomery		Anne Arundel
	Baltimore		Harford		Carroll		Howard
	Frederick		Washington		Morgan		San Juan

## Total Cases

Single Judge Counties



FY 1997





**DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**  
District 2

John L. Norton, III  
*Administrative Judge*

310 Gay Street  
P. O. Box 547  
Cambridge, Maryland 21613-1813  
(410) 221-2585

August 14, 2001

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge  
District Court of Maryland  
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chief Judge Rasin:

I am writing to request your consideration of a second District Court Judge position for Worcester County. This judge would be based and reside in the Worcester County Ocean City District Court facility which presently has no resident judge utilizing its chambers and courtroom. The present Ocean City summer schedule of four days per week and winter schedule of two days per week are in part covered by borrowing a judge from Somerset County. The Worcester County Snow Hill District Court is scheduled four days per week both summer and winter.

In analyzing the current state of judicial resources in both Worcester County and District Two, several needs appear. Worcester County presently is averaging approximately 30,000 cases per year, certainly in excess of the 21,000 cases per judge state average. The most recent Workload Assessment Study performed by the National Center for State Courts has determined both an actual and adjusted need of 1.92 judges for Worcester County as opposed to its present one judge position. The requested additional new judicial position would allow for the more expeditious handling of the Worcester County caseload by allowing for an additional day in Ocean City and a fifth day in the Snow Hill District Court. The acceleration of trial docketing in the Ocean City District Court would particularly address a recurring problem in that Court. The present lack of scheduled court days makes quite difficult the scheduling of initial trial

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
August 14, 2001  
Page 2

dates within the summer months thereby failing to accommodate the public's need for a court adjudication prior to the commencement of college and/or other fall commitments. The initial trial date delays precipitated by summer time large-scale case generation also presents prosecutorial hurdles for the State and fiscal problems for the municipality where the police force is in part hired and therefore only available seasonally. The present schedule has not served Ocean City ideally and has placed a burden on surrounding courts.

The Wicomico County District Court has also seen a steady increase from FY 1995 of 20,000 cases per judge, to FY 2000 now in excess of 23,000 cases per judge. This increase has been consistent and most uniquely marked by an extremely large Domestic Violence docket which has necessitated an earmarked Protective Hearing afternoon docket. While the two judges in Wicomico are presently managing its volume to a degree, further increases, which seem inevitable, will soon present delays in Salisbury inconsistent with efficient judicial administration, public expectations, and certainly the proposed time standards for initial trial dates. Towards that end the proposed usage of the new Ocean City Judge should also entail the use of the Jury Assembly room in the Wicomico County facility presently being renovated to a third courtroom. This third courtroom would be opened two to three days per week and staffed in part by the Ocean City Judge. The Workload Assessment Study has determined the actual and adjusted need for Wicomico County to be 2.3 judges. The impact of this position would also greatly aid in assisting in the prevention of delays in the Somerset District Court, which Somerset County Judge to date has been sitting part-time in both Worcester and Wicomico County despite a case increase in Somerset from 12,000 in FY 1995 to over 15,000 in FY 2000. These cases are presently being scheduled over only three days per week in the Somerset District Court on our winter schedule, and only five days out of every ten on our summer schedule. Once again the additional judicial resource would afford Somerset an additional day per week that should further address both the proposed time standards and the beginnings of a problem with initial trial date delay in that court. Further, this judicial resource should provide some enhanced opportunity for District Two to provide out of district coverage to other jurisdictions in the State and should reduce the need and demand for retired judges in District Two. The efficiency achieved should allow us to more frequently darken courtrooms to accommodate judicial, personal and medical leave without causing backlogs. This judgeship should place District Two in good standing in terms of judicial resources for the next decade. I have enclosed attachments which illustrate the existing and proposed allocation of resources for the affected courts.

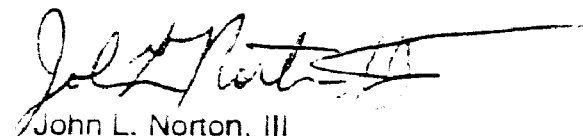


The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
August 14, 2001  
Page 3

I realize that you may be besieged by requests for new judge positions. This request is in no way attempting to indicate that such other requests have any less merit but is rather pointed towards ensuring timely and effective judicial administration in District Two for the foreseeable future. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information or assistance in this matter.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,



John L. Norton, III  
Administrative Judge

JLNIII/co  
Enc.

## EXISTING

### DISTRICT TWO SUMMER SCHEDULE

July through December

	Somerset	Wicomico I	Wicomico II	Snow Hill	Ocean City
MONDAY	N/C	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	Hayman
TUESDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	N/C	Bloxom
WEDNESDAY	N/C	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	Hayman
THURSDAY *	<u>Hayman</u> N/C	Davis	<u>Bloxom</u> Hayman	Whitehead	<u>N/C</u> Bloxom
FRIDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	N/C

\*Top and Bottom of designations indicate alternating weeks.

### DISTRICT TWO WINTER SCHEDULE

January through June

	Somerset	Wicomico I	Wicomico II	Snow Hill	Ocean City
MONDAY	N/C	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	Hayman
TUESDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	N/C	Bloxom
WEDNESDAY **	N/C	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	N/C
THURSDAY	Hayman	Davis	Bloxom	Whitehead	N/C
FRIDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	N/C

\*\*Each Wednesday one judge available for out of District travel assignment

# PROPOSED

## DISTRICT TWO SUMMER SCHEDULE

July through December

	Somerset	Wicomico I	Wicomico II	Wicomico III	Snow Hill	Ocean City
MONDAY	N/C	Davis	Whitehead	Hayman	Bloxom	New Judge
TUESDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	N/C	Bloxom	New Judge
WEDNESDAY *	<u>N/C</u> Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	<u>Hayman</u> N/C	Bloxom	New Judge
THURSDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	N/C	New Judge	Bloxom
FRIDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	New Judge	Bloxom	N/C

\*Top and Bottom of designations indicate alternating weeks.

## DISTRICT TWO WINTER SCHEDULE

January through June

	Somerset	Wicomico I	Wicomico II	Wicomico III	Snow Hill	Ocean City
MONDAY	N/C	Davis	Whitehead	Hayman	Bloxom	New Judge
TUESDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	N/C	Bloxom	New Judge
WEDNESDAY **	<u>N/C</u> Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	<u>Hayman</u> N/C	Bloxom	N/C
THURSDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	N/C	New Judge	Bloxom
FRIDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	New Judge	Bloxom	N/C

\*Top and Bottom of designation indicate alternating weeks.

\*\*Each Wednesday one judge available for out of District travel assignment



**DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND**

District 2

John L. Norton, III  
*Administrative Judge*

310 Gay Street  
P. O. Box 547  
Cambridge, Maryland 21613-1815  
(410) 221-2585

June 21, 2000

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
Chief Judge  
District Court of Maryland  
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chief Judge Rasin:

I am writing to request your consideration of a second District Court Judge position for Worcester County. This judge would be based and reside in the Worcester County Ocean City District Court facility which presently has no resident judge utilizing its chambers and courtroom. The present Ocean City summer schedule of four days per week and winter schedule of two days per week are in part covered by borrowing a judge from Somerset County. The Worcester County Snow Hill District Court is scheduled four days per week both summer and winter.

In analyzing the current state of judicial resources in both Worcester County and District Two, several needs appear. Worcester County presently is averaging approximately 30,000 cases per year, certainly in excess of the 21,000 cases per judge state average. This new judicial position would allow for the more expeditious handling of the Worcester County caseload by allowing for an additional day in Ocean City and a fifth day in the Snow Hill District Court. The acceleration of trial docketing in the Ocean City District Court would particularly address a recurring problem in that Court. The present lack of scheduled court days makes quite difficult the scheduling of initial trial dates within the summer months thereby failing to accommodate the public's need for a court adjudication prior to the commencement of college and/or other fall commitments. The initial trial date delays precipitated by summer time large-scale case generation also presents prosecutorial hurdles for the State and fiscal problems for the municipality where the police force is in part hired and therefore only available seasonally. The present schedule has not served Ocean City ideally and has placed a burden on surrounding courts.

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
June 21, 2000  
Page 2

The Wicomico County District Court has also seen a steady increase from FY 1995 of 20,000 cases per judge, to FY 1999 now in excess of 24,000 cases per judge. This increase has been consistent and most uniquely marked by an extremely large Domestic Violence docket which has necessitated an earmarked Protective Hearing afternoon docket. While the two judges in Wicomico are presently managing its volume to a degree, further increases, which seem inevitable, will soon present delays in Salisbury inconsistent with efficient judicial administration, public expectations, and certainly the proposed time standards for initial trial dates. Towards that end the proposed usage of the new Ocean City Judge should also entail the renovation of the Jury Assembly room in the Wicomico Court facility to a third courtroom. This third courtroom would be opened two to three days per week and staffed in part by the Ocean City Judge. The impact of this position would also greatly aid in assisting in the prevention of delays in the Somerset District Court, which Somerset County Judge to date has been sitting part-time in both Worcester and Wicomico County despite a case increase in Somerset from 12,000 in FY 1995 to almost 15,000 in FY 1999. These cases are presently being scheduled over only three days per week in the Somerset District Court. Once again the additional judicial resource would afford Somerset an additional day per week that should further address both the proposed time standards and the beginnings of a problem with initial trial date delay in that court. Further, this judicial resource should provide some enhanced opportunity for District Two to provide out of district coverage to other jurisdictions in the State and should reduce the need and demand for retired judges in District Two. The efficiency achieved should allow us to more frequently darken courtrooms to accommodate judicial, personal and medical leave without causing backlogs. This judgeship should place District Two in good standing in terms of judicial resources for the next decade. I have enclosed attachments which illustrate the existing and proposed allocation of resources for the affected courts. During any interim period that such judge position would exist prior to its partial utilization in a third Wicomico courtroom, a fifth summer day could well be utilized in Ocean City during the summer months, further increasing the benefits previously described in that area. Additional judicial resources would also be more available for out of district and judicial leave coverage during this interim period.

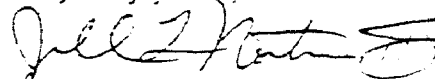
I realize that you may be besieged by requests for new judge positions. This request is in no way attempting to indicate that such other requests have any less merit but is rather pointed towards ensuring timely and effective judicial administration in

The Honorable Martha F. Rasin  
June 21, 2000  
Page 3

District Two for the foreseeable future. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information or assistance in this matter.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John L. Norton, III", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John L. Norton, III  
Administrative Judge

JLNIII/co  
Enc.

## EXISTING

### DISTRICT TWO SUMMER SCHEDULE

July through December

	Somerset	Wicomico I	Wicomico II	Snow Hill	Ocean City
MONDAY	N/C	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	Hayman
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WEDNESDAY	N/C	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	Hayman
THURSDAY *	<u>Hayman</u> N/C	Davis	<u>Bloxom</u> Hayman	Whitehead	<u>N/C</u> Bloxom
FRIDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	N/C

\*Top and Bottom of designations indicate alternating weeks.

### DISTRICT TWO WINTER SCHEDULE

January through June

	Somerset	Wicomico I	Wicomico II	Snow Hill	Ocean City
MONDAY	N/C	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	Hayman
TUESDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	N/C	Bloxom
WEDNESDAY **	N/C	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	N/C
THURSDAY	Hayman	Davis	Bloxom	Whitehead	N/C
FRIDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	Bloxom	N/C

\*\*Each Wednesday one judge available for out of District travel assignment

# PROPOSED

## DISTRICT TWO SUMMER SCHEDULE

July through December

	Somerset	Wicomico I	Wicomico II	Wicomico III	Snow Hill	Ocean City
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TUESDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	N/C	Bloxom	New Judge
WEDNESDAY	<u>N/C</u> Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	<u>Hayman</u> N/C	Bloxom	New Judge
THURSDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	N/C	New Judge	Bloxom
FRIDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	New Judge	Bloxom	N/C

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## DISTRICT TWO WINTER SCHEDULE

January through June

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TUESDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	N/C	Bloxom	New Judge
WEDNESDAY **	<u>N/C</u> Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	<u>Hayman</u> N/C	Bloxom	N/C
THURSDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	N/C	New Judge	Bloxom
FRIDAY	Hayman	Davis	Whitehead	New Judge	Bloxom	N/C

\*Top and Bottom of designation indicate alternating weeks.

\*\*Each Wednesday one judge available for out of District travel assignment



